

Coal at power stations near pre-strike level after massive restocking

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

Power station coal stocks are well on the way to returning to their high level before the miners' strike, after a record build-up of more than 8.6 million tonnes since the strike ended last March.

Confidential figures produced by the National Coal Board show that power station stocks are already above 20 million tonnes in England and Wales, and climbing at the rate of more than 400,000 tonnes a week, as a result of a massive operation to restore them to pre-strike levels.

The figures make it clear for the first time that Central Electricity Generating Board stocks fell more than half, to 11.3 million tonnes, during the

strike. The NCB Marketing Report also shows that in spite of problems with restarting, coal industry output in the six months since the strike has been 40 million tonnes, more than 1.2 million tonnes over budget.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, disclosed last Friday that output had reached the record level of 2.8 tonnes per man shift in the third week of September.

The massive restocking operation ordered by Sir Walter Marshall, CEBG chairman, with the full backing of the Government, is designed to minimize prospects of the National Union of Mineworkers seeking to repeat its year-long strike against pit closures.

PERFORMANCE IN CEBG MARKET ('000 tonnes)				
Week ending	NCB coal	Total coal	Burn	Stock change
Sept 7	1,550	1,770	1,330	+440
Sept 14	1,550	1,720	1,410	+600
Sept 21	1,550	1,750	1,350	+400
Cumulative, 25 weeks to Sept 21	37,660	41,530	32,780	+8,750

FUELLING OF POWER STATIONS (million tonnes of coal equivalent)			
Fuel	1985	1984	1983
Coal	30.1	15.9	23.4
Nuclear	7.0	1.0	1.0
Oil	1.8	1.4	1.9
Gas	0.3	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	39.2	18.4	26.4

(Total electricity sent out was up 5 per cent over last year in this period of 1985).

COAL OUTPUT 1985-86		
	Budget	Projection
NCB deep-mined	86.9	88.7
NCB open cast	13.8	14.5
Licensed mines and tips	1.7	1.7
STOCKS		
Opening (at end March '85)	19.2	19.2
Closing (at end March '86)	6.2	6.2

Figures in million tonnes

£1m security cover for Tory conference

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A security operation, costing more than £1 million and involving hundreds of police officers, swings into action in Blackpool tomorrow as the Conservative Party conference opens almost a year after the Brighton bombing.

As a result of the Provisional IRA attack on the Grand Hotel during last year's conference, new measures have been adopted. Mrs Margaret Thatcher will stay each night in a mansion in the country beyond Blackpool and will be ferried under tight security to the conference each day.

Other ministers will also stay in selected residences. Security officials were unhappy last year that the senior members of the Cabinet were staying in the same hotel and proved an ideal target for the IRA.

The decision to keep the Prime Minister and other Cabinet figures away from the conference is one of the lessons of the Brighton bombing drawn up by Mr John Hoddinott, deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire, who produced a

report on the Brighton bombing.

Another result has been the institution of intensive searches of the venues for each conference and improved documentation for delegates. The passes issued for Blackpool include instructions to be careful with travelling arrangements, not to wear passes away from the conference and not to go out alone in the evenings.

They will find restrictions on what they can take into the Winter Gardens for the conference. The building will be searched throughout the conference by officers with electronic equipment and dogs trained to sniff out explosives. Specialist units such as the Strategic Air Service Regiment may be on call should they be needed. Royal Ordnance Corps explosives experts are likely to be on duty in Blackpool.

Officers are known to have checked guest lists at main hotels during the past few months.

The precise cost of one of the biggest security exercises in Britain since the Second World War has yet to be calculated.

Question to Scargill on £29,000

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Right wingers on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers are to seek an explanation of a cheque for £29,000 paid by the union to Mr Arthur Scargill, its president, at the height of the pit strike.

Mr Scargill says the cheque was repayment of money given by him to the union. But moderates last night registered their intention to question him about the transaction at Thursday's meeting of the union executive.

The cheque has come to light in a report by the union's receiver to Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, the High Court judge who last Thursday adjourned a union application to regain control of its finances.

The report by the receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, says that the union's financial position is "complicated and clouded" and that he has received "virtually no co-operation from NUM leaders in his inquiries".

The receiver was appointed after an application during the strike by 16 working miners who claimed that the union's leaders, Mr Scargill, Mr Peter Heathfield and Mr Mick McGahey, were unfit trustees.

The union's funds have also been the subject of a sequestration order earlier in the strike for contempt of court.

The report says that the £29,000 cheque was paid to Mr Scargill from funds lodged in the Irish Republic on August 28 last year, which were "said to be in repayment of personal funds paid into the NUM account by him".

During the strike Mr Scargill, along with his two colleagues, said they did not draw their salaries.

Mr Arnold reports that the union has been "improperly funded" since the receivership began.

In a statement Mr Scargill denies that Mr Arnold has enjoyed full co-operation.

Battle rages at Mods rally

Police arrested 52 people during running battles between local youths in Redcar, Cleveland and Mods in the town for their annual rally. Thirty-four were fined at a special court yesterday.

A mod from Dublin and a publican were knifed and police rescued the crew of a bus taken over by the fighters.

Apartheid's civil critics under fire, Tutu says

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and Nobel Laureate, said yesterday that "those of us who have been advocates of peaceful, non-violent change in South Africa run a very grave risk of having our credibility undermined".

Speaking on Channel Four's Face the Press programme yesterday, Bishop Tutu said he feared the day was not very far away when young blacks who were presently prepared to listen to people like himself "will jettison us".

"I am opposed to all forms of violence," he said. "I am opposed to the violence of a vicious, unjust system, but I am equally opposed to the violence of those who seek to overthrow that system."

"But I am aware, as a man of peace, not a pacifist but a man of peace, that there may come a time - and we are very close, perhaps, to that time - when we will have to say that the lesser of the two evils is to overthrow this unjust system."

Bishop Tutu is due to return later today to South Africa where on Wednesday he will lead a national day of prayer and fasting for peace and reconciliation, organized by the Church-backed National Initiative for Reconciliation, which is calling for an end to the state of emergency, the withdrawal of troops from black townships, the release of detainees and talks between the South African government and authentic black leaders.

However, some black clergymen in South Africa believe that the churches are not taking a strong enough stand against apartheid. Some 150 recently signed the "Kabros declaration" demanding all-out Christian support for rebellion, including civil disobedience and boycotts, and for understanding violent acts by black youths.

During his stay in Britain Bishop Tutu held talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher about the situation in South Africa and the response of the international community. He urged her, on grounds of British self-interest as well as morality, to "assist the transition" from apartheid to majority rule.

Although he and Mrs Thatcher had disagreed amicably, she had been prepared to listen to his case, he said.

Anger at Botha, page 7



A militant supporter shouting defiance at speakers during a Liverpool Against Militants rally, attended by 4,000 people yesterday.

Unions seek inquiry into Liverpool crisis

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Mr David Barnett, co-ordinator of the eight trade union leaders who are to meet the Labour leaders of Liverpool, yesterday emphasized that the "bottom line" would be for the city council to withdraw redundancy notices issued to the council's 31,000 workers.

The General and Municipal Workers Union leader wrote to the other seven union general secretaries, reporting on discussions held with Mr John Hamilton, Liverpool's Labour

Mr Hamilton said that when they did meet, the first request would be for redundancy notices to be rescinded. "We also discussed the possibility of an independent inquiry to be undertaken at the initiative of the unions," Mr Barnett said.

The union leaders' aim is to persuade the Militant-led leadership in Liverpool to "roll back the chain of events that have brought the issuing of redundancy notices, to a point where advisers can be called in."

Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of the council, gave a promise to Mr David Blunkett, the Labour Party executive's local government committee chairman, that Liverpool would open its books.

Mr Barnett wrote that he told

Art dealer's share offer to buy pictures

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The biggest prize of the autumn art auction season is being offered for 1 per cent shares by a US dealer.

Mr Graham Arader is offering private investors a 1 per cent share for which they will have to pay 1.15 per cent of his purchase price if he secures Redouté's exquisite illustrations to Les Liliacées at Sotheby's in New York on November 20.

Sotheby's suggest the illustrations will make between \$5 million and \$7 million, but Arader is not revealing his limit. It is a procedure apparently without precedent.

Pierre-Joseph Redouté is generally considered the greatest master of flower painting, combining botanical accuracy with extraordinary artistry. He was drawing master to Queen Marie Antoinette, but his greatest patron was Empress Josephine, a passionate collector of rare plants.

She was the first owner of the Liliacées for which she is reputed to have paid \$4,000 francs. The compilation of portraits of the lily family took Redouté 14 years.

They were acquired before the First World War by Mr Edward Weyhe, of New York, and are being sold by a private family trust.

There are 468 illustrations in watercolour on vellum: 19 were lost during the nineteenth century.

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris is expected to be a contender, but Mr Arader believes that he is more likely to be outbid by the J. Paul Getty Museum of Malibu, California, the richest museum in the world.

The Getty has a great collection of French decorative arts of Redouté's era and is forming a collection of Old Master drawings. The illustrations fall squarely in its field of interest.

Sotheby's method of sale is highly unusual. The illustrations are to be offered first a one lot in the owner's hope that a buyer will keep them together; if a certain minimum price is not reached they will be auctioned individually. The minimum price is likely to be between \$5 million and \$7 million; if auctioned singly the illustrations could make much more. At a Monaco auction in June, Peter Michel, a London dealer, paid \$101,328 each for two particularly fine Redouté watercolours.

SDP-Liberal links grow with Ulster Alliance

From A Correspondent, Belfast

The adoption last month of a joint policy on Northern Ireland by the Liberals and the SDP which closely follows the thinking of Northern Ireland's own Alliance Party, has paved the way for close links between the Alliance in Great Britain and its unrelated Ulster namesake.

The Northern Ireland Alliance Party is expected to become closely, though informally, linked with the Liberals and the SDP as a result of talks which are now reaching their conclusion. The three parties are likely to fight the next general election effectively as one.

But the founding principles of the Alliance Party which was established in 1970, forbid formal ties with any other organization and there is no question of a merger with either of the two constituent parties in the SDP-Liberal Alliance, a prominent Alliance Party representative said in Belfast yesterday.

The Alliance Party supports the union with Britain and is strongly in favour of devolved government at Stormont, with statutory power-sharing between the majority Protestant and minority Roman Catholic communities - principles the joint SDP-Liberal policy on Ulster now embraces. Alliance Party leaders from Northern Ireland were present as observers and fringe meeting speakers at both the Liberal and

An electoral pact between the SDP-Liberal Alliance and the Alliance Party in Ulster is unlikely, however, to give Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen any more back-benchers at Westminster.

The informal linking of the Alliance Party with the Liberal and SDP grouping will pose a question over the vestigial organizations that both the Liberals and the SDP have in Northern Ireland.

Leading article, page 13

Union votes to meet Alliance

By Our Labour Reporter

The Engineers' and Managers' Association has put the TUC under pressure to change its policy on refusing to take state funds for ballots and to widen regular political contacts to include the Alliance parties.

The association's biennial conference in Bristol almost unanimously passed a motion yesterday recognizing that "a new political climate had been created by the emergence of a significant third political force."

On Saturday, the right-led association, some of whose 41,000 members hold strategically important jobs in power stations, voted by two to one committing leaders to accept government money for ballots.

Most of the TUC general council is opposed to meetings with the Alliance, but there is a growing campaign to change the movement's opposition to state cash.

Delegates at the two-day conference went against executive advice in instructing their leaders to accept government money for ballots.

Mr John Lyons, general secretary, said the leadership position had been that "we do not believe the TUC should expel a union for accepting the money, but we do not want to flout TUC policy. If the TUC does not change its policy it will have to expel unions by the dozen."

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union risk expulsion if members vote next month to accept money.

Ford pay claim

Union leaders representing 37,000 hourly-paid workers at Ford have asked for a 15 per cent increase in basic rates and a move towards common conditions for manual and salaried staff. The company will reply later this month when it is expected to seek the introduction of a grading system.

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CHRISTIE'S
Who obtains the glittering prices?



Finely made Edwardian flexible bow brooch. Sold at Christie's in June 1985 for £16,200.

Christie's do, regularly.

Christie's next sales of Fine Jewellery will take place on 6 November and 11 December. Entries for the 11 December sale are now being accepted until 14 October. For further information on buying or selling jewellery at Christie's, please contact Albert Middlemiss, David Warren or Simon Teakle.



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Sarah Philp, aged 18, with one of two Harris Hawks used to drive off other birds and prevent damage to aircraft at the United States Air Force base at Fairford, Gloucestershire.

Pennines inquiry tests conservation policy

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

An inquiry about imposing tight planning restrictions on 900 remote square miles of the North Pennines opens tomorrow.

It will be the first such inquiry into a proposed designation of an area as being outstanding natural beauty, and is seen as an important test of the Government's commitment to conservation.

Local farmers and land owners will oppose the imposition of blanket planning controls across some of the

wildest unspoilt scenery in England.

The area, just to the south of Hadrian's Wall, is almost as big again as Greater London, and would be the largest area of outstanding natural beauty in Britain. It has a population of fewer than 30,000 and its remote fells, rising to nearly 3,000 ft, are a haven for rare alpine plants.

The North Pennines were due to be designated six years ago, but were caught by an official review of landscape protection policy.

Now the Countryside Com-

mission, backed by several councils and the Ramblers Association, is seeking protection for what it calls the "unique character" of the landscape.

Mr Tom Stephenson, a former secretary of the association, said in evidence to be given to the inquiry that the area offers "the nearest approach in England to what might be termed a wilderness; miles after miles of uninhabited moorland".

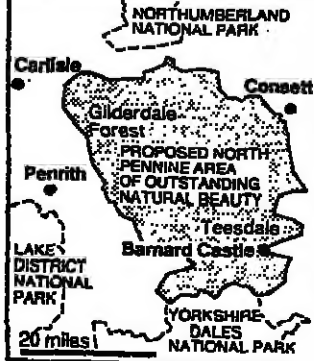
But local business people will protest at the inquiry that designation would fossilize an

area that has suffered little from industrialization.

The National Farmers Union said: "The people who are for designation are people by and large who do not live in it."

Mrs Rosalind Packham, who will speak for the County Landowners Association at the inquiry, said: "We think designation will stultify economic growth, we wonder where new jobs are going to come from."

Areas of outstanding natural beauty are not as tightly controlled as national parks such as the Lake District.



Minister puts history at peak of new strategy to attract more tourists

By Derek Harris

A big switch in the Government's policy on tourism is being considered to boost new attractions of the calibre of the Mary Rose exhibition in Portsmouth and Ironbridge's re-creation of the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution.

Fired by the new jobs potential in hastening Britain's tourism development, Mr David Trippier, minister with responsibility for tourism at the Department of Employment, is considering how far to push more aid into key attractions to stimulate substantial flows of tourists, including those from abroad.

Mr Trippier says there are other examples of a successful exploitation of the attractions of British heritage such as the industrial museums in Bradford and the York Viking centre in York.

"I am not sure spending heavily on helping upgrade hotels and other accommodation is the best way to bring the tourists in. It is not better to concentrate on these really big attractions so that a tourist flow is created from which everybody then benefits."

The most direct aid for tourism projects comes from grants through the English Tourist Board, whose spending has been cut in recent years. The board is preparing for its first detailed talks later this month at the Department of Employment with its new team dedicated to promoting enterprise and jobs led by Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State.

Tour bookings break records

Bookings for overseas holidays next summer are breaking records, travel chiefs said yesterday.

The largest tour company, Thomson Holidays, said that, three days after launching its brochure, it had sold at least 200,000 holidays. "It is incredible. The whole history of tour operating has never known such a record", Mr Paul Brett, its managing director said.

Thomson has almost doubled the number of holidays it is offering for next summer to two million, with average price reductions of 17 per cent and a guarantee against surcharges and alterations to travel plans.

Mr John McNeill, managing director of the 200 Lunn Poly travel agents shops, said: "This is the first time we have had queues outside our branches".

Lunn Poly said it expects sales this month to be twice last year's figure.

About half of the board's spending, pegged to £7.9 million this year, has been going on helping the upgrading of tourist accommodation but it has also given backing to a wide variety of key attractions, including the heritage ones. Future levels of departmental spending are still under review in Whitehall but it seems more likely that pump-priming aid for tourism might be expanded.

Senior ministers at the Department of Employment are, however, clearly looking for value for any money spent, so

tough criteria on low cost job creation are likely to be applied. Total spending in 1984-85 is estimated at £300 million.

Mr Trippier, who is non-committal on likely spending levels in the next financial year, said: "I believe that tourism creates 50,000 new jobs a year. Most of them are in small businesses."

Tourism is the biggest single employer in Britain, with 1.3 million people owing their jobs to it in one way or another, he pointed out. Foreign tourists alone will spend an estimated £6.5 billion in Britain this year.

Mr Trippier is planning other initiatives to expand the tourism industry and the opportunities for more jobs in the sector.

"London should not be the one-stop shop for foreign visitors particularly," he said. "I see London as a gateway to other tourist attractions further north."

Other government departments had to be brought into the drive to help, such as the Home Office in improving processing of foreign nationals at airports. Taxi queuing at London stations such as Victoria needed to be tackled.

Education and training needed tackling further with improved careers advice to make more young people aware of opportunities in tourism and leisure.

Further de-regulation measures scrapping more red tape are due in the spring and should benefit tourism.

The use of the Business Expansion Scheme for hotel development could be encouraged.

Directors' pay

Five top £1m-a-year mark

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

Five British company directors each earned more than £1 million a year in pay and dividends, according to the latest survey by the Labour Research Department, published today.

The most lucrative post is held by Mr David Sainsbury of the Sainsbury store group, who received nearly £7.8 million in the financial year ending last March, the report says.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lorrho, owners of The Observer, came second in the payments league, with remuneration amounting to about £5.3 million. A newcomer to this "millionaire" category is Sir Terence Conran of Habitat/Mothercare, whose pay and dividends rose by 22 per cent in 1984-85 to reach slightly more than £1.8 million.

The department, which is funded by trade unions, also found that four directors commanded salaries of more than £500,000. 44 directors earned more than £200,000 and 338 of them received more than £100,000 salaries. Last year the survey found that 179 directors earned more than £100,000.

Mr Richard Giordano, of British Oxygen, once again claimed the highest salary with £771,600, a rise of 48 per cent on the previous year.

The LRD argues that the

TOP PAID DIRECTORS 1984-85

Director	Company (financial year ending)	Pay (£)	% rise
Richard Giordano	BOC (8/84)	7,771,600	48
David Sainsbury	SP (12/84)	6,495,206	10
Brian Christopher	BSR (12/84)	588,000	6
Nigel Stewart	BSR (12/84)	528,000	6
Gerald Ronson	Heron International (2/84)	446,000	2
Ralph Halpern	Burton (8/84)	348,000	76
Tony Rowland	Lorrho (8/84)	322,881	22
Victor Benjamin	Lax Service (12/84)	307,808	n/a
Peter Marsh	Allen Brady & Marsh (5/84)	305,000	0
Sir Kenneth Corfield	STC (12/84)	297,000	48

1 works mainly outside UK; 2 converted from dollars; 3 increase at local rate; 4 highest pay director; 5 most likely recipient; 6 includes bonus payments; 7 since resigned.

Source: Labour Research, October 1985

PAY AND DIVIDENDS 1984-85

Director	Company (financial year ending)	Pay & Div (£)	% rise
David Sainsbury	J Sainsbury (3/85)	7,787,512	14
Tiny Rowland	Lorrho (8/84)	5,272,881	24
Sir John Sainsbury	J Sainsbury (3/85)	2,485,679	19
Sir Terence Conran	Habitat/Mothercare (3/85)	1,812,250	22
Sir Phil Harris	Harris Queenway (12/84)	1,446,002	5
Noel Lister	MFI (3/84)	815,853	2
Richard Giordano	BOC (8/84)	771,600	48
Lord Fort	Trusthouse Forte (10/84)	720,580	15
Tom Clarke	Glencoint Holdings (1/85)	699,771	0
Lord Wansborough	GLEC (8/85)	648,896	10
Alton Whitehouse	BP (12/84)	648,896	10
John Aspinall	Aspinall Holdings (8/84)	627,639	n/a
Sir James Goldsmith	Aspinall Holdings (8/84)	624,789	n/a
Bernard Matthews	Bernard Matthews (12/84)	623,821	-7

Source: Labour Research, October 1985

total pay bill of the 338 who are paid more than £100,000, amounts to £52.13 million - equivalent to the pay of 6,107 "average" male manual workers as defined by the Government's New Earnings Survey. The department also draws a parallel with more than four million workers who are earning less than £108 a week.

LRD researchers have found that there has been a "dramatic" rise in employers' use of the law against trade unions in the past 18 months.

They traced 70 legal actions brought by employers against unions or union members in the past four and a half years, half them in the 18 months to August 1985.

Acid rain 'damaging yew trees'

Beech and yew trees show clear signs of acid rain damage, Friends of the Earth said yesterday. Only a third of 642 trees examined in England and Wales were considered to be healthy.

The conclusion of its survey differs from the more tentative results of a study released last month by the Forestry Commission.

Mr Christopher Rose, Friends of the Earth spokesman, said yesterday that the damage was similar to that blamed on acid pollution in central Europe. "We think it shows that acid rain damage has definitely arrived in Britain."

Beech and yew were good indicators of acid rain, he said. It made beech leaves drop early and distorted growth in the upper twigs.

The Forestry Commission said last month that the premature dropping of beech leaves did not reach German levels that were attributed to acid rain.

BMA guide on Aids safety

Advice on how to avoid Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and recognize symptoms of the disease is published in a booklet by the British Medical Association today.

The booklet warns readers against having sexual relations with multiple partners and sharing syringes, razors or other skin cutting instruments. The disease is spread, like hepatitis B and syphilis, by sexual contact, blood transfusion, syringe needles or other sharp instruments contaminated with infected blood, the booklet says.

Symptoms which may mean a person is suffering from Aids include reduced energy, fever, swollen lymph glands, loss of resistance to infections, and some cancers.

Dr Tony Smith, medical editor of the BMA's Family Doctor Publications, said better understanding would help reduce anxiety and some mistaken ideas about Aids.

Infectious diseases, by Dr Melvin Ramsay, 95p plus 15p p&g; BMA House, Tavistock Square, London

TV watch on Ibrox hooligans

Rangers football club is to install a £25,000 closed-circuit television system to combat hooliganism at its Ibrox Park stadium in Glasgow.

The club, which today faces a disciplinary inquiry into crowd trouble at its recent match with Aberdeen, is also to quadruple the number of police officers at home matches, at a cost of £10,000 per game.

Football hooligans went on the rampage in Luton on Saturday after Luton Town's match with Manchester United. Shop windows were smashed and cars damaged.

An amateur football referee abandoned a match on Saturday and ran from the ground, pursued by a team, one of whose players he had sent off. Mr Michael Symons, aged 30, ran to a house near by in Bitterne, Southampton.

The Hampshire football association is expected to hold an inquiry into the game, between Sutton Sports, whose player Mr Symons dismissed, and Mayfair.

Spitting Image toys are dogs' pet hate

By Tony Samstag

Chewy vinyl dog toys reproducing the Spitting Image puppets of Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan are runaway best-sellers and strong contenders for the best product in show prize at the two-day annual Pet Product Marketing Exhibition, which opened at Alexandra Palace, north London, yesterday.

Ten thousand cases (120,000 toys) have been sold in six weeks, and the manufacturers, Armitage Bros, of Nottingham, fear that they will be unable to meet the growing demand.

The product, made under copyright held by Spitting Image Productions, who are renowned for their macabre television renditions of public figures, has attracted a letter of encouragement from the Prime Minister's office.

Mrs Caroline Ryder, the Prime Minister's private secretary, wrote that she was sure Mrs Thatcher "would want me to wish you every success with your new venture". Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, has also offered his congratulations.

The squeaky toys sell at

£1.99 under the label "Pet Hates". Sales are running 60 to 40 in Mrs Thatcher's favour. Armitage refused to speculate on other possible personalities.

Other highlights at the exhibition, the 17th, include a pink poodle (£35 plus VAT), a tank of tropical fish at about £7,000, and an affectionate pair of macaws and cages, which can cost more than £500.

The organizers, the Pet Trade Association, are to merge with the Pet Industry Association to form the Pet Trade and Industry Association on January 1.



Youngsters show their appreciation of a Punch and Judy festival at Covent Garden yesterday to celebrate the 223rd anniversary of the first Punch and Judy show in Britain, held outside St Paul's Church (Photographs: Steve Blogg)

Police guard on woman witness to pub killing

A woman who saw four men beat her boyfriend to death outside a public house in Northampton on Saturday night was under police guard yesterday.

Richard Twinn, aged 39, of Queens Crescent, Northampton, died on the way to hospital from a ruptured heart after being repeatedly kicked and punched. The woman, aged 29, had flagged-down a motorist as her friend lay bleeding outside the "Morris Man".

The couple had been drinking in the public house and the men attacked as they left just after closing time. The police do not know of a motive. Sixty officers are involved in the inquiry.

Women bishops threat to unity

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, who last week spoke of a possible split of the Church of England because of the ordination of women, has now told his diocese of an impending split in the Anglican Communion because of women bishops.

Writing in his diocesan newsletter, Dr Leonard says the Episcopal Church of the United States recently voted by 112 to 31 in favour of consecrating women as bishops. The Episcopal Church already has several hundred women priests, who are gaining seniority.

The American bishops have referred their decision to the committee of primates of the Anglican Communion, which meets under the Archbishop of Canterbury's chairmanship next March. Dr Leonard says it is

not clear they are prepared to review it in the light of the primates' advice. "It is, however, clear that as far as the Anglican Communion is concerned we are now talking about the consecration of women to the episcopate."

"I would regard those who took part in such a consecration, and the bishops of that part of the Anglican Communion of which she was a member, as having departed from the apostolic episcopate, and could no longer regard myself as in communion with them."

He argues that the Anglican Church possesses Holy Orders by virtue of its being part of the Catholic Church on earth, and has therefore no authority to alter anything which is the possession of the whole. He says

he cannot believe that for 2,000 years the priesthood received by the Church of England, shared by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, has been defective through not ordaining women. "I do not believe that I have the authority to ordain a woman to the priesthood, and I do not believe that the General Synod of the Church of England can give me such", he writes.

Dr Leonard's position could yet cause considerable problems for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, when he convenes the next meeting of the Lambeth Conference in 1988. If by then the American church has its first women bishops, he would have to choose between inviting them and inviting the Bishop of London, unless the latter decides to retire by then.

Drug names confusion blamed for deaths

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Confusion over similar sounding names of drugs has led to the deaths of some patients and serious illness among others, the Consumers' Association says today.

A young man died after being given the beta-blocker Inderal instead of Intal, a drug for asthmatics, and a woman of 64 died after being given Priadel, a powerful drug prescribed for some forms of depression, instead of Pardale, an analgesic that can be taken several times a day.

The association, in its fortnightly *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin*, circulated to doctors, calls for new safety measures.

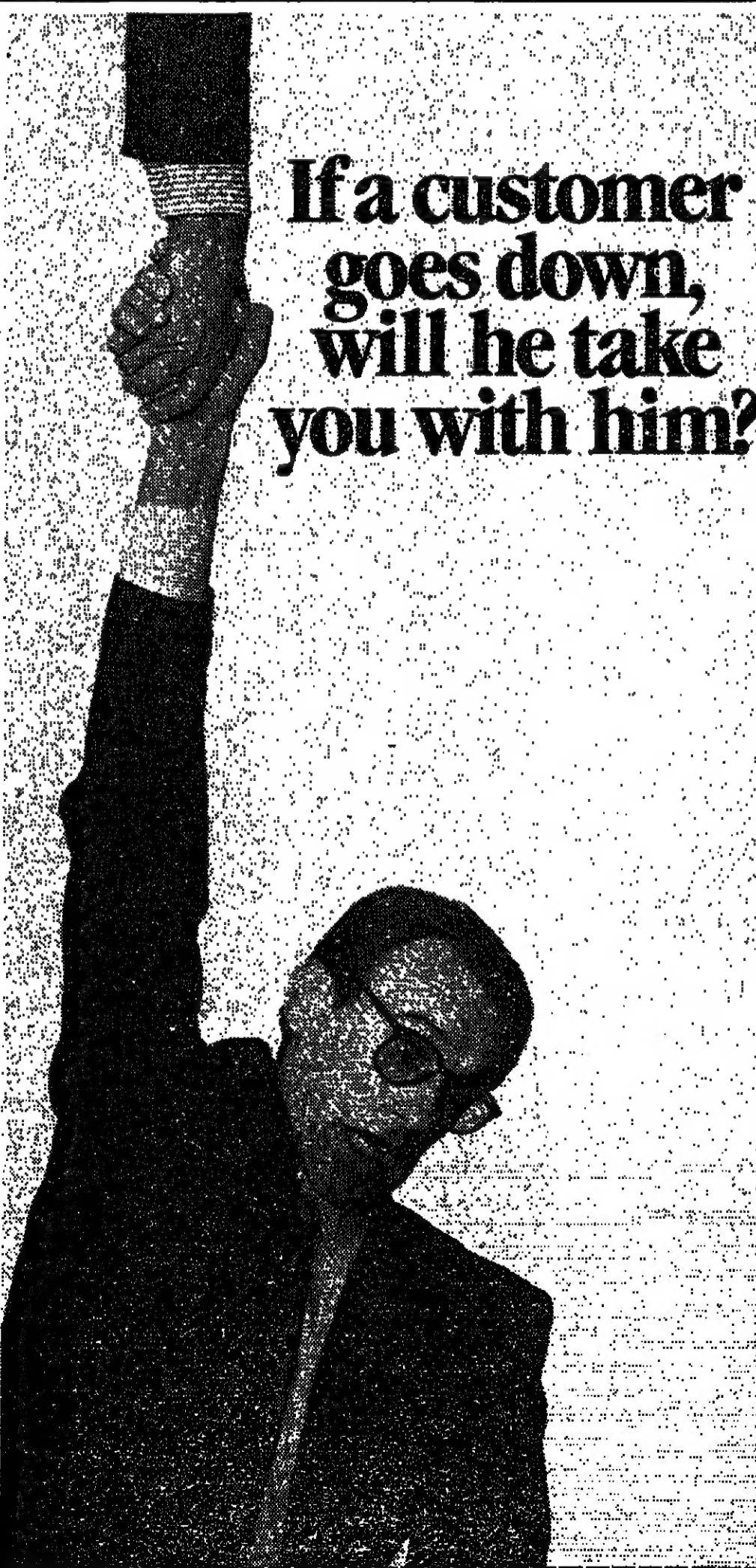
The young man died in 1979 and the woman died last year.

"Often the names of drugs do not indicate the nature of the drug or drug mixture, and by looking or sounding similar may lead to confusion. Errors in prescribing, dispensing and administration inevitably follow," the bulletin says.

Most troubles occur with proprietary names of drugs which, although they may be easier to remember and write, clash with other brand names or generic names. The Government, as the licensing authority, should more vigorously apply its right to refuse a licence for any drug with a confusing name, the association suggests. It also calls on drug companies to name new products so that they cannot be confused with others already in use.

BBC is sued

Miss Joanna Monro, an actress aged 39, who was in the television series *That's Life* is claiming damages from the BBC for injuries when she fell from a miniature double deck bus at an amusement park in Kettering, Northamptonshire. She says she lost a theatre contract because of the injuries.



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Turbulent style of RAF life too much for many wives

By Thomson Prentice

Many wives of Royal Air Force servicemen suffer from mental illnesses caused by the stresses of their lifestyles, an investigation has disclosed.

The research, by an RAF psychiatrist, is likely to have a significant effect in changing attitudes within the service towards sufferers of psychiatric conditions generally, and women in particular.

The evidence produced by the psychiatrist, Squadron Leader Susan Barrow, has confirmed the belief of some RAF medical officers that there is a serious mental illness problem among air force wives.

The causes include the often turbulent lifestyle, involving frequent changes of home, difficulty in establishing deep social roots, separation from relatives, and the "culture shock" for some young wives of living overseas.

The result is that many wives suffer from sleeplessness, irritability and other forms of stress. But many probably do not seek medical help because of the stigma attached to mental illness, the research shows.

Squadron Leader Barrow's research last week won the St Andrew's Hospital Prize, worth £500, which is open to general medical practitioners for written work on a psychiatric subject. St Andrew's, Northampton, is Britain's largest independent psychiatric hospital.

Her study was carried out on 430 patients among 1,800 registered with the medical centre at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

Squadron Leader Barrow found that 17 per cent had psychiatric troubles, and that women were significantly more distressed than men. The women, practically all service men's wives, had five times as many "hidden" problems as the men.

"There is a probable degree of environmental stress present which is causing psychiatric morbidity, and which may go unrecognized, particularly among female dependants", she said.

"There is a strong possibility that some of those suffering do not seek medical help, or if they do, they do not present with psychological symptoms.

"It is suggested that this is because of the stigma attached to mental illness and the emphasis on physical well-being present in a military environment."

If social attitudes towards mental illness could be modified, patients would be more likely to consult and express their problems, she said.

Wing Commander Keith Prior, the RAF's adviser in general practice, said: "These problems may have been on our doorstep for some time but it takes evidence of this kind to encourage action. The caring elements of the service - the doctors, padres and personnel officers among them - are making themselves increasingly available to offer help."

"We are trying to lessen the social stigma of mental illness and I believe we are becoming more enlightened."



Mr Bexon (right) and his architect Mr Quarumby at ceiling level of the new house.

Designer digs deep for home comfort

A fear of heights combined with a lifelong desire to design his own house has led Mr Stuart Bexon to build an underground home for himself and his dog, Rosie, in a small village near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr Bexon, aged 41, a marketing consultant, decided

to build the egg-shaped 2,000 sq ft energy saving house last year.

Bad weather has put him behind schedule but so far he has quarried more than 2,500 tons of Cotswold stone from the site.

Inside are three bedrooms,

living areas at different levels and a small avocado shape swimming pool. Mr Bexon is working closely with energy saving experts at Bath University and Mr Arthur Quarumby, the architect who designed and lives in the only other underground house in the United Kingdom.

Cave team to teach Chinese

By Ronald Faux

British cave explorers are to export their skills to China.

The 10 members of the China Caves 85 expedition which sets out soon supported by the Royal Geographical Society and Royal Society and the Sports Council, are to make the first serious underground investigation of two areas of South China in Guizhou and Guangxi provinces, two areas of karst limestone the size of Britain.

In return for a first attempt at one of the most sought after archaeological prizes in the world, the British cavers will teach the Chinese how to use modern cave exploration equipment.

Dr Tony Waltham, deputy leader of the expedition, said the Chinese had less interest in the sport of caving than they had in finding out the exact hydrology of the regions, and the potential of the cave systems for people.

Courses on defence and war neglected

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Universities and polytechnics, examination boards and the governing bodies of agencies of professional accreditation should scrutinize routinely the treatment of war and defence in all sociology courses, according to a new pamphlet.

Written by Professor David Marsland, of Brunel University, in Middlesex, it says that sociological accounts of modern Britain are incomplete, inaccurate and one-sided. The subjects of war and defence are neglected and analysis that is done is infected with bias against Nato and the defence of the free world, he says.

The pamphlet, published by The Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, says that sociology's inadequate treatment of war and defence is a product of neglect, drift and lack of balance in departments, curricula and documentation.

Some sociologists are using their professional role as teachers to advance personal beliefs, Professor Marsland says. But most are genuinely unaware of the extent to which their opinions are controversial and in need of justification.

They must give more attention to war and defence, and their treatment should be objective and balanced. "The illegitimate use of violence is an unavoidable commonplace of social life. Individuals and

societies have the right and duty to make proper arrangements for defending themselves.

Neglect and Betrayal: War and Violence in Modern Sociology, (David Marsland, Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, 13-14 Golden Square, London W1R 3AG, £4.50, loc postage).

● The National Union of Teachers is asking Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to say publicly that teachers are not indoctrinating pupils attending peace studies.

A letter released today asks Sir Keith to restate his support for balanced teaching on matters relating to peace and war.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, asks him to condemn at the Conservative Party conference this week suggestions at last year's conference that teachers are "the enemy within" and that millions of children are being systematically indoctrinated.

The union is concerned about "persistent attacks" on the professionalism of teachers because they teach peace studies, or espouse the freedom to do so. "Teachers are professionals, and well able to distinguish fact from opinion, as are their pupils", the letter to Sir Keith says.

Sugar quota rise could secure jobs

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

Thousands of jobs in emerging "bio-tech" industries could be lost if the United Kingdom fails to secure an increase in its EEC sugar quota allocation, according to Mr Gordon Percival, managing director of the British Sugar Corporation.

He says that the present world surplus will soon end and that sugar will be in increasing demand as a raw material for a range of industrial uses, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, paints, plastics and new technological processes.

BSC, which is the monopoly buyer for all home-grown beet, says that Britain in the past four years has paid more than £70 million in levies for the disposal of EEC surplus production, but has not received a penny in return. It fears that this levy, which is about to be increased by 25 per cent, will be used now to finance bio-tech industries in countries where manufacturers will be keen to seize upon the surplus of sugar as a raw material.

He is pressing Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, to demand an increase in the United Kingdom quota. While this would temporarily add to the EEC surplus, it would put Britain in a position to compete for new industries.

EEC grain aid likely for Ireland

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

An emergency subsidy to provide cheap feed for livestock farmers in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic is expected to be agreed by the EEC Council of Ministers this month.

The proposal is to make available 165,000 tonnes of grain from United Kingdom intervention stocks at a 25 per cent discount, bringing it down from nearly £114 a tonne to about £85. Irish farmers were unable to cut hay to make silage because of an exceptionally wet summer.

But the Ministry of Agriculture in London, although insisting that Northern Ireland farmers should receive help, has not made any plans for special help to farmers in upland Britain.

In parts of Scotland, which had to contend with a record rainfall last month, hundreds of livestock owners are reported to be in serious financial difficulties.

There has been considerably less burning in the fields this autumn, partly because of the late harvest but also because barley straw is in strong demand as a supplementary feed. Sugar beet tops, most of which will be ploughed into the ground, would also be a welcome alternative feed.

Use of fire picture upheld

A complaint about the publishing of a colour picture of a man engulfed in flames at the Bradford City football ground disaster, on the front page of the *Yorkshire Post* has been rejected by the Press Council.

Mr G. C. Hart and five colleagues at the Department of medical physics, Bradford Royal Infirmary, complained that it was offensive to publish the picture, thus sensationalizing one individual's suffering.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

The coloured photograph of a man in flames reproduced by the *Yorkshire Post* from television was a horrific picture, bringing home vividly the significance of the Bradford City football club disaster.

The Press Council has repeatedly said that editors considering publishing dramatic news pictures of people dead or close to death should pay careful regard to the distress and shock these may cause to victims' relatives and friends and other people.

The council is satisfied that in this case the picture's value to public safety justified its publication.

India-Pakistan tension

Border fighting as dispute over A-bomb deepens

From Michael Hamlyn

Delhi

Despite apparently friendly talks between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan at the UN in New York, relations between the two countries appear to be getting worse.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is also Defence Minister, has made a belligerent statement to his army commanders, expressing concern at what he called "the deteriorating security environment" in India's neighbourhood.

He said "Pakistan appears to be intent on going ahead with the exercise of its nuclear option."

Last night the Indian Defence Ministry reported that three young soldiers were killed in Kashmir. A statement said the incident took place in the Kargil area, of the Indian side of the line of control and close to the disputed Siachen glacier area, when troops on a routine patrol were ambushed by artillery and machine-gun fire.

The ministry contrasted this with what it said was Indian action last month when Pakistan troops crossed the border. Four Pakistanis were arrested and later safely returned to Pakistan.

The Indian media appear to be transfixed by the idea of Pakistan making an atomic bomb, despite the fact that India exploded its own "peaceful nuclear device" 11 years ago.

Papers quoted the American columnist, Jack Anderson, who is something of a Guru to Indian journalists, saying he had been told by a US diplomat in Delhi that Pakistan was making a World War Two-type bomb with technology acquired from China.

Mr Anderson, in Delhi to interview Mr Gandhi and to make a television documentary about India, tried to withdraw this, but no one much believed his "clarification".

The flap over Pakistan's nuclear intentions coincides with the shooting incidents in the Punch district of Kashmir, and the hostilities on the Siachen glacier.

According to the Pakistan side, the shooting on the glacier is confined to artillery duels in the southernmost pass leading to the glacier, the Gyang La. The shooting in Punch is



Jack Anderson: "Pakistan using Chinese technology".

largely a seasonal affair. After the monsoon, the grass grows thickly around the ill-defined line of control, and straying cattle or grass-cutters cause warning shots to be fired, which in turn cause retaliatory firing.

Mr Gandhi also referred to the danger of infiltration across the border, and during the past month the Army has tightened its control of the border, principally to secure the Punjab elections from outside interference, but also to free the Border Security Force, who are technically policemen, for police duties during the polls.

The Indians have presented a sharp reaction to the mere mention of the Kashmir issue at the UN.

The Pakistani Foreign Minister, Sahebzada Yaqub Khan, told the General Assembly that his Government proposed a bilateral pact to India to outlaw aggression.

"In this spirit we seek a just and honourable settlement of the Hammu and Kashmir question," Sahebzada Yaqub said.

He was rewarded with headlines which accused Pakistan of "raking up" and "harping on" the Kashmir issue.

No substantive issues were discussed between Sahebzada Yaqub and the new Indian Foreign Minister, Mr B. R. Bhagat, but Pakistan's nuclear programme was raised when Mr Bhagat met the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz.

Mr Shultz apparently suggested that both countries should agree to joint inspection or both should sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Italy's crops ravaged by drought

From Peter Nichols

Rome

If the drought lasts another two weeks its effect on Italy's agriculture will mean a 2 per cent rise in the 1986 inflation rate, according to government calculations.

But there is a serious danger of widespread flooding if torrential rain were to break the drought. In the words of an official of the Confederation of Agriculture: "We want a lot of your light British rain to save the situation."

The fact that many regions have had no rain since the spring is only part of the story. The bitterly cold winter was a disaster for much of Italian agriculture.

Millions of olive trees were killed by the cold, particularly in Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio; thousands more have since died for lack of water. In the centre and the north this year's olive harvest is estimated at zero.

The general panorama shows a drop of 8 per cent in fresh fruit, seven per cent in cereals and 25 per cent in flowers. The grape harvest will be smaller but promises to be of good quality.

Surprisingly, the south has fared better than the north in the drought. Southern farmers are more accustomed to lack of rain, and over the years expensive systems of irrigation have been built in the more prosperous areas.

The northern farmers are used to August storms, some heavy rain in September and rain alternating with sunshine in October. This year they have had nothing but clear blue skies and a torrid sun. Some have established emergency irrigation systems but this is expensive and helps to force up costs. The alternative is loss of the crop.

The lack of water is making ploughing difficult, and this has two effects. Grain cannot be sown and the unploughed ground is unable to absorb torrential rain should it eventually fall.

Side effects of the drought are varied. Shopkeepers find that no one is interested in their autumn and winter stock. Doctors say that unexplained illnesses, including headaches, vomiting and a general weakness, may be due to the drought.

So far Florence is the only big city known to be threatened with a serious shortage of water.

● PARIS: The French Agriculture Minister, M Henri Nallet, yesterday announced emergency measures to aid French farmers hit by the worst drought for nearly 10 years, and appealed to European Community partners for help.

Police nab taxmen with hands in the till

From Michael Hamlyn

Delhi

A good deal of quiet satisfaction is being felt in Indian middle-class circles at the spectacle of a group of income tax inspectors apparently caught with their hands in the till.

If Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is going to clean up public life as he has promised, starting on the taxmen will certainly be a popular beginning. Not that everyone pays income tax, far from it. The vast majority of Indians are too poor.

While the business community contributes a certain amount, it manages its affairs in such a way that many fees, percentages and discounts are paid under the counter in untraceable so-called black money.

Since civil servants themselves have no choice but to pay tax since they are Government employees they are vulnerable to the opportunity of increasing their spending power by taking bribes.

Detectives from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the country's national police force equivalent to America's FBI, raided the houses of five senior taxmen in Delhi, they hauled in property cash and valuables worth 4.5 million rupees (about £300,000).

The goods included cash, gold and silver ornaments, expensive household items, electronic goods, whisky (a popular item among wealthy Indians despite the ban on the consumption of alcohol) and foreign currency.

A spokesman for the CBI said currency worth 742,000 rupees was found locked in a steel cabinet in the home of a senior taxman, whose house also contained 230,000 rupees worth of household goods, 40 bottles of scotch, four gold sovereigns and two gold coin blanks, 162 US dollars, 141 silver coins, savings bonds amounting to 154,000 rupees, and documents showing heavy investments in stocks, shares and property.

A more junior figure who was a humble stenographer until three years ago had managed to stow away 950,000 rupees worth of goods in his house.

The detectives making the raids were only slightly put out to find one of their victim's entertaining an extremely senior officer, with the rank of Inspector General of Police, to tea in the sitting room.



A riot policeman pins a demonstrator to the ground after police break-up a protest in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Protests against police in five West German cities

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Demonstrations against the police were held in five West German cities over the weekend. The reason, or pretext, was that it was one week since the death - the Saturday before - of Gunther Sare, a locksmith, aged 36, who was run over by a police water-cannon vehicle during a demonstration in Frankfurt against a meeting of the small, right-wing National Democratic Party.

The latest demonstrations broadened to be both about the death of Herr Sare and a variety of left-wing causes.

In Munich the demonstration was ostensibly against the opposition of Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the Prime Minister of Bavaria, to sanctions against South Africa.

The biggest disturbances were in Frankfurt.

The mayor had banned demonstrations in the city. But about 1,000 protesters went there none the less.

There also were demonstrations, of lesser size and violence, in Hamburg, West Berlin and Kiel.

Time out for tired Karpov

By Raymond Keene

The world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, used the second of his three permitted time-outs to postpone Saturday's thirteenth game in Moscow.

With the score level at six points each, the battle against the challenger, Gary Kasparov, will resume tomorrow.

Karpov has been under severe pressure in recent games and experts had anticipated a time-out to allow the champion to recover his physical strength and repair his battered opening repertoire. He has been

experiencing particular difficulty on the black side of his favourite defences.

The champion's time-out also coincides with potentially embarrassing allegations by the West German magazine, *Der Spiegel*.

In an article published this week, the magazine said Karpov had accumulated more than \$440,000 (about £300,000) from a contract with a Hong Kong-based computer company in breach of Soviet currency regulations.

CHANGES TO PRICES FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES

British Telecommunications plc announces the following changes to its main telephone service charges - the first applying to exchange line rentals and calls since November 1984. Overall, the changes on exchange line rentals and Local and National dialled calls have been kept to 3.7% which is within the limit of an increase of 4% permitted this year by the BT Licence.

The changes aim to align prices more closely with the cost incurred in providing each of our services. As such, some prices are increased whilst others are significantly reduced.

FROM 1 NOVEMBER 1985

Telephone Exchange Line rental

RESIDENTIAL

Quarterly rental for an exclusive exchange line increased from £12.40 to £13.45.

Quarterly rental for an existing basic dial telephone instrument increased from £2.75 to £3.00.

The combined quarterly rental for a line and basic telephone instrument increased from £15.15 to £16.45. For customers with shared service the increase is from £14.10 to £15.30.

The rebate on rental for low user residential lines is increased from 3.2p to 3.4p for each unused unit below 120 call units per quarter.

BUSINESS

Quarterly rental for an exclusive exchange line increased from £19.95 to £21.70.

Quarterly rental for an existing basic dial telephone instrument increased from £3.55 to £3.90.

The combined quarterly rental for a line and basic telephone instrument increased from £23.50 to £25.60.

The charges quoted above for telephone instruments may be varied from time to time at BT's discretion. Contracts for rentals for telephones supplied after 1 January 1985 are regulated by the Consumer Credit Act, under which BT is obliged to give at least 7 days' written notice to a customer of such variation. The minimum period of hire for a telephone instrument is 12 months, and one quarter's rental is payable in advance.

Connection Charges

The connection charge is increased by £10 to £85 for a residential exchange line and to £95 for a business exchange line.

Existing customers who move to a new address where telephone service is provided for the first time will continue to pay £20 less.

Existing customers who take over an existing installation when they move to a new address will pay £10.

FROM 4 NOVEMBER 1985

Charges for Calls from Ordinary Lines

Call unit charge increased by 0.3p to 5p but between 12.5% and 25% more time will be allowed during the peak and standard rate periods for National calls over 56 kms. Shorter distance National calls will, however, have less time allowed in the standard rate period.

International call times adjusted, resulting in some calls becoming cheaper and others dearer after the change in the unit charge. A number of countries are moved between charge bands and a new charge band C2 is introduced (for details of these changes see enquiry points below).

Charges for Calls from Payphones

The 10p minimum call unit charge from Payphones is unchanged and for many National calls over 56 kms, more time will be allowed for your money.

Slightly less time will be given on shorter distance National calls in the standard rate period.

Value Added Tax

The charges quoted above, except those for calls from Payphones, are shown before the addition of VAT.

Additional Information

Details of the main rental and call charges will be notified to all customers by way of a leaflet to be included in quarterly telephone bills.

Details of our new prices, including changes not set out above, are available at your local telephone District or Area office. If you wish further information about any of the changes please dial 100 during normal office hours and ask for Freefone 2500, or for Freefone BTI for enquiries about international services.

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Police nab taxmen with hands in the till

from Michael Hamlyn Delhi

good deal of quiet satisfaction is being felt in India's middle-class circles at the arrest of a group of income tax inspectors with their hands in the till.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is going to be a public figure as he has been since the beginning of the year. The vast majority of Indians are poor.

While the business community contributes a certain amount, it manages its affairs in such a way that many of its employees are under the counter and the country's so-called black money.

Since civil servants themselves have no choice but to pay since they are Government employees, the opportunity of increasing spending power by taking bribes from the Central Government's nationalised banks, or taxmen in Delhi, is a very real one.

It is not only cosmetic but irrelevant. It does not help progress at the Geneva arms talks.

Mr Gorbachov had set out to impress Western European public opinion and to try to divide the Western alliance, diplomats said, in particular over the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" project.

The Geneva negotiators are all purely cosmetic," one diplomat said. "That goes for the offer of a 50 per cent cut in strategic arsenals, and it also applies to the suggestion that Britain and France should talk directly to Moscow about medium-range missiles, which is not only cosmetic but irrelevant. It does not help progress at the Geneva arms talks."

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st police in man cities

Russians hail triumph for Gorbachov but Western envoys sceptical

There were no Western-style headlines saying "Gorbachov scores public relations success in Europe" no prime-time television pictures of Mrs Raisa Gorbachov at Paris fashion houses and modern art museums. Despite the new Gorbachov style abroad, at home the media remain as staid as ever and only relay official Kremlin bulletins.

But as Mr Gorbachov, his wife and their aides returned to Moscow at the weekend, Soviet officials were delighted with their leader's impact on Western opinion during his visit to France. Western diplomats were correspondingly sceptical.

"The arms control offers are all purely cosmetic," one diplomat said. "That goes for the offer of a 50 per cent cut in strategic arsenals, and it also applies to the suggestion that Britain and France should talk directly to Moscow about medium-range missiles, which is not only cosmetic but irrelevant. It does not help progress at the Geneva arms talks."

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Mobs burn ballots as Portuguese go to polls

From Richard Wigg Lisbon

The Portuguese voted yesterday in elections for a government faced with preparing for next January's entry into the European Community.

A general election was forced on the country before time when the Social Democrats withdrew from this coalition with the Socialists this summer.

Crowds destroyed ballot boxes and voting papers in Vizela, near Braga, and in Riva, near Oporto. Local police did not intervene. Polling will take place next Sunday.

In Vizela the people were angry that a promise to make this town the centre of the municipality had not been kept.

On the eve of the poll, President Eanes followed his normal practice in appealing to voters not to abstain. But in doing so he ignored the complaints of the Socialists and the Centre Democrats, who feared that he might seek to influence voters in favour of the new Democratic Renewal Party for which his wife Dr Manuela Eanes, had campaigned energetically.

President Eanes, who is preparing his own entry into the party political arena when he steps down next January, deftly combined the message to attend the polls with an implicit rejection of the argument of the two big parties that voting for the new party would be a wasted vote.



Mr Steel and President Alfonsín joking before the start of serious discussions.

Alfonsín and Steel agree

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

President Alfonsín of Argentina agreed with Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, here yesterday that a formal cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the Protection Zone should be an integral part of negotiations on the future of the Falklands.

A joint communiqué was issued after a brief meeting between the two. Mr Steel and the Argentine Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, Señor Jorge Sabato, also met for three hours.

Mr Steel and President Alfonsín said it was their "firm desire" that relations should be renewed, and they should be reopened "on the basis of an agenda which includes all matters separating the two countries".

They agreed that such negotiations should cover all aspects of the future of the Falklands, including sovereignty - one subject which the British Government has been unwilling to discuss.

At a news conference, Mr Steel said he had informed the Foreign Office of his intention to confer with President Alfonsín. He agreed to report back about the meeting.

Greenpeace sinking was stupid, says minister

Paris (Reuters) - The French Minister of Justice has labelled the sinking of the Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior by French agents as a stupid and odious act that has had incalculable consequences.

"But it is not France, not the country which is at fault," M Robert Badinter said in an interview on French television at the weekend.

"It is normal that a big power should have a nuclear deterrent with a secret service, and within the service active units. At the same time, in a democracy, there must be a sanction against the person who gave the order for such an act."

The Defence Minister, M Charles Hernu, resigned and Admiral Pierre Lacoste was sacked as head of country's intelligence services before the Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, blamed them for the order to sink the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland, New Zealand, in July.

Referring to M Hernu's resignation, M Badinter said: "In such a case, ministerial responsibility comes into effect and someone has to resign. That's what happens."

Basque arson

Bayonne (AFP) - masked gunmen set fire to an empty holiday centre at Fourcade in the Basque country of southwest France which is sometimes used as a police barracks.

Poles pick general to wage war on Aids

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

The Polish Government, alarmed at the prospect of Aids spreading throughout the Soviet bloc, has appointed an army general to head a task force to combat the killer disease.

The normally sluggish medical bureaucracies of Eastern Europe have reacted with remarkable speed to Western Aids reports. There have been a number of suspected cases in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Poland with its relatively mobile population of whom about a million will travel to the West as tourists and on business this year, is now particularly at risk.

Massive screening of the main target groups of homosexuals, bisexuals, drug addicts and haemophiliacs has been ruled out because of the diagnostic difficulties.

Professor Adam Nowoslawski of the Aids task force, said: "Our present task is to collect a representative number of blood samples, about 5,000 from target groups, and statistically determine the risks of these groups. As no compulsion is possible, the screening will have to be voluntary." Professor Nowoslawski will report to General Jerzy Bonczak, who has become the official Aids plenipotentiary.

Poland has large homosexual communities, especially in the cities of Warsaw, Cracow and Wrocław and an unusually high number of heroin addicts. Hard drug abusers and addicts are estimated to number between 80,000 and 200,000.

Some 60,000 copies of diagnostic guidelines have been printed and distributed.

Many doctors think they are discovering Aids cases and homosexuals are coming forward, worried about apparent Aids symptoms, but the Health Ministry is not confirming them because the results are not precise enough. Hygiene conditions are particularly poor. A recent survey of maternity and children's wards by the health ministry after the poisoning of several babies revealed serious deficiencies in almost all hospitals. Shortages of syringes, cotton wool, detergent, sterilizing fluid and nursing staff have all aggravated the situation.

East Germany and Hungary are probably as exposed as Poland because of the number of Western visitors. East Berlin has a particularly large homosexual milieu that has contacts with visitors from West Berlin.

The Soviet Union is in the most delicate position in the Communist bloc because homosexuality is technically illegal and so the chances of victims coming forward for treatment are slim.

Duarte deal for release of daughter

San Salvador (AP) - President Duarte in a radio exchange with his daughter's kidnappers said, the Government's ready to free 22 political prisoners if she is released along with a friend and 24 kidnapped mayors.

But President Duarte, using a walkie-talkie to negotiate with the kidnappers on Saturday, first demanded proof that she was unharmed and in good health. The kidnappers said they would give proof.

Captain held

Athens (AP) - Dimitris Georgoulis, fugitive captain of the scuttled Liberation-registered supertanker Salem, was taken into custody outside his Athens home on Saturday. He was sentenced in April in absentia to a three year prison term on marine fraud charges.

Driver's guilt

Tokyo (AP) - The driver of a sightseeing bus that veered off a highway and plunged about 90ft onto another road, killing three people and injuring 61 others, later hanged himself from a tree.

Lottery fever

Los Angeles - Jubilant officials here claimed a world record for California's new lottery. An estimated 30 million tickets were sold in the first 24 hours, well over one ticket for every eligible buyer.

Kremlin's Juliet

Moscow (Reuters) - A poem by Julia Drunina, a leading Soviet poet, in Pravda says Samantha Smith, the American peace girl who died in an air crash, could be compared with Shakespeare's Juliet.

Holiday crash

Dôle (AP) - Nineteen German tourists were seriously injured when their bus was struck by a lorry on the Beaune-Mulhouse autoroute in eastern France.

Athens ambush

Athens (AP) - Two gunmen seriously wounded Youssef Aheila, aged 43, a Libyan businessman, in an Athens suburb. Police said they suspected political motives.

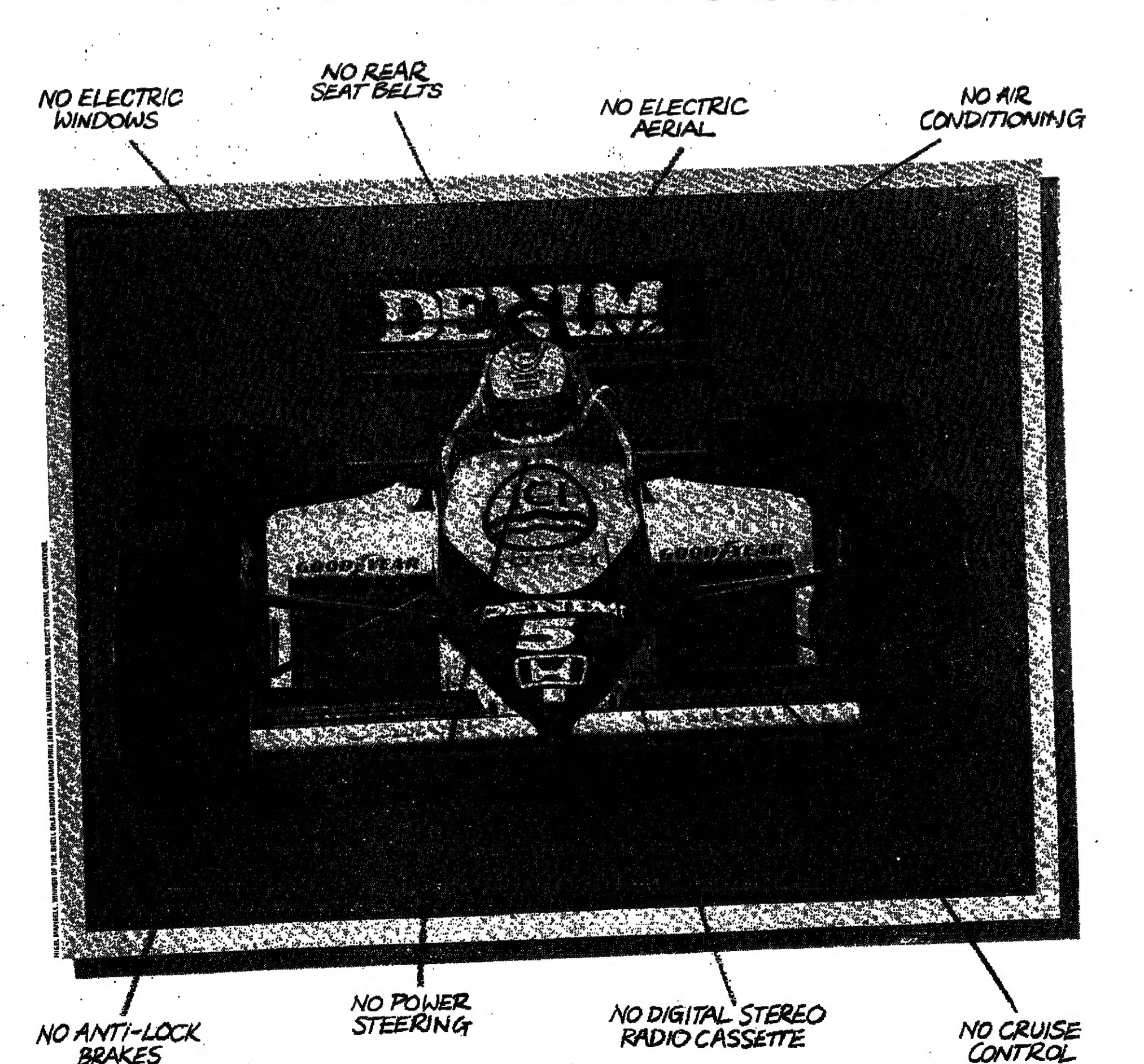
Kharg attack

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said its planes carried out another damaging raid on Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island yesterday.

Killer snack

Bangkok (Reuters) - A Thai building worker who ate four bags of locusts as a snack has died of insecticide poisoning, police said.

HE'D HAVE WON FAR MORE COMFORTABLY IN A HONDA ACCORD.



Fellow Honda drivers must feel for Nigel Mansell today. Imagine driving for 200 miles without the refinements that owners of the Accord Executive and EXR take for granted. Think of hurtling into the hairpin without anti-lock brakes and hurtling out without a fully automatic gearbox complete with lock-up clutch. And just contemplate the hair-raising alternative to the Accord Executive's electric, smoked-glass sunroof.

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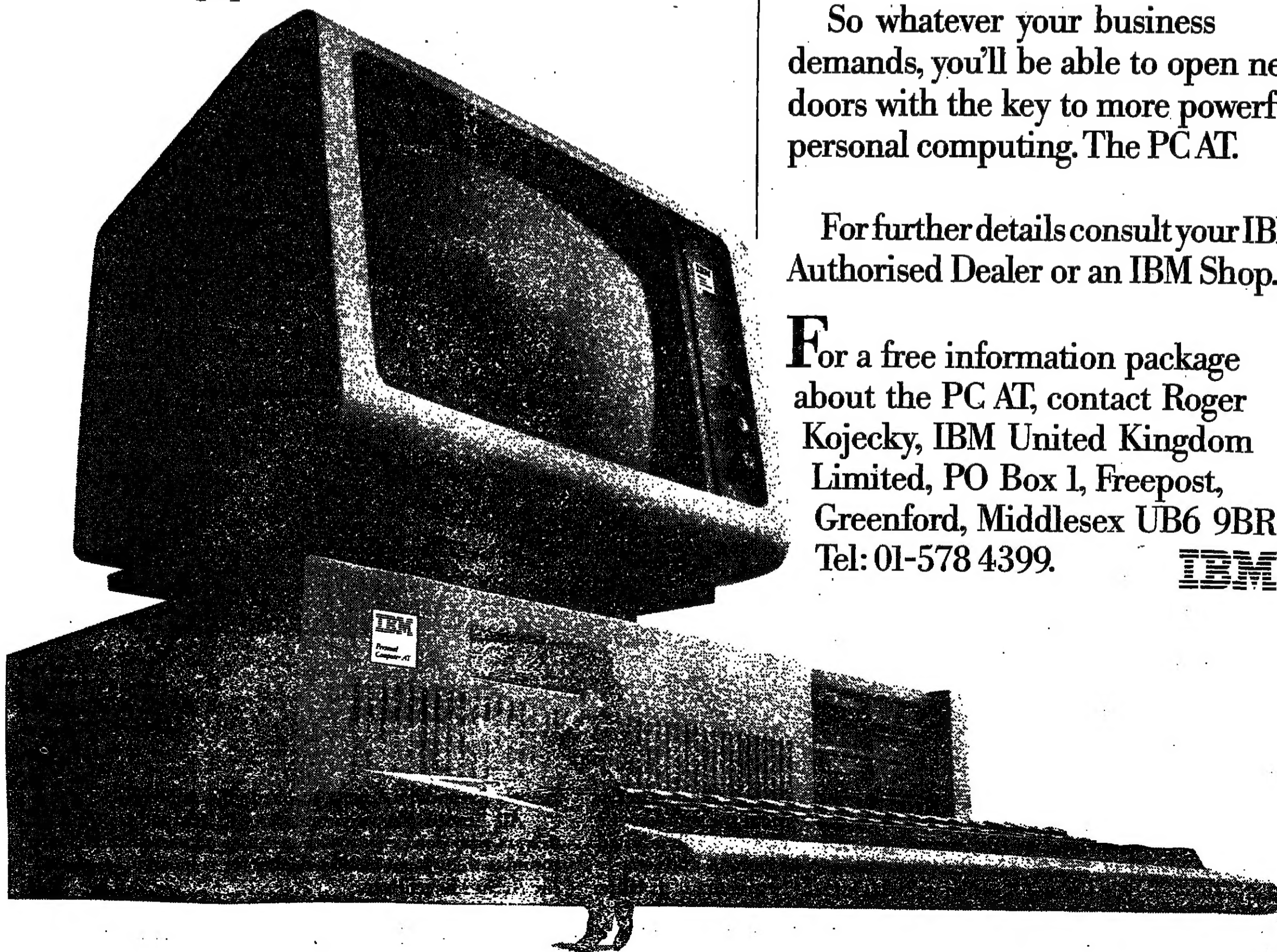
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Botha advisers angered by his renewed support for residential apartheid

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The declaration by President Botha of South Africa that the Group Areas Act enforcing residential apartheid is not discriminatory and will not be scrapped is reported to have angered members of the President's Council, the Government's top advisory body, and to have caused dissension within the Cabinet.

At the Cape congress of the National Party in Port Elizabeth last week, Mr Botha interviewed sternly in a debate over whether the Act should be retained or repealed.

He said he had ordered the President's Council to investigate ways to make the Act more easily applied and acceptable, but the principle of separate residential areas would remain entrenched in South Africa. Whites as well as blacks were entitled to live as citizens in the manner they chose and send their children to their own schools.

Members of the council, which has recommended the abolition of influx control laws, and not simply their amendment as Mr Botha has indicated; were reported to be furious that he appears to have dictated to them what their findings on the Act should be. Other council members said that when Mr Botha commissioned the investigation it

was made clear to them that they had an open brief, although they were aware that their report might be rejected if it clashed with government policy.

Mr Botha's Coloured and Indian Cabinet colleagues, as well as some of the more reformist-minded White members, are said to be insisting that the Act must go, or at least be changed drastically.

The Rev Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Coloured Labour Party, described the Act as "one of the harshest laws in the country that has hit the Coloured community more than anyone else."

Afrikaans and English-speaking whites tended to live in different suburbs not because of any law but because of freedom of choice should be granted on a non-racial basis to all people.

Mr Baldeo Dookie, a member of the Indian Minister's Council, said the violence by blacks on Indians in Inanda township outside Durban recently was not an argument in favour of separate areas as Mr Botha had said.

Zulus and Indians had lived peacefully together in Inanda for years and many black residents sheltered Indian

neighbours during the recent unrest which appeared to have been caused by an emergent non-peaceful element, Mr Dookie said.

It is considered in some quarters that Mr Botha is showing signs of reacting to world pressure for change by slowing down the pace of reform. He has issued several warnings that international sanctions could be counter-productive.

● Blacks burnt to death: Black crowds protesting against apartheid burnt two blacks to death in weekend riots, and three leading Sunday newspapers portrayed President Botha as failing in a campaign to convince the country that he is sincere about racial reform.

● PERTH: Two journalists, Michael Morgan and Debbie Bishop, said they were attacked at a cricket club here yesterday while covering a demonstration against a rebel Australian cricket tour of South Africa (Reuters reports).

They believed their attacker to be an official of the club, where rebel team members were playing. Mr Morgan was punched and fell backwards down a flight of stairs, and Miss Bishop was grabbed around the throat.

US hostage may have been killed months ago

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr William Buckley, the US political officer kidnapped in March last year, may have been murdered by Islamic Jihad three months ago, despite claims that he was "executed" last week because of alleged American involvement in the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Families of other American hostages in Lebanon - as well as a number of militia leaders here - suspect that the Polaroid photograph of Mr Buckley, released by his abductors and published in two Lebanese newspapers on Friday, may have been taken almost four months ago and that the "news" of his killing had been delayed until a suitable opportunity - in this case, the Israeli raid - presented itself for his death to be admitted.

There is also concern in the United States for the life of Mr Peter Kilburn, the 60-year-old librarian at the American University of Beirut who was kidnapped last December but was not included in a series of photographs released by his Islamic Jihad kidnappers in May.

Mr Kilburn suffers from a serious heart ailment and is deeply sympathetic to his relatives, the families of the remaining four hostages fear that he may also no longer be alive.

After the Rev Benjamin Weir, the kidnapped Presbyterian minister, was released by



Mahloul Soissa (right), father of an Israeli murdered with his girl friend in the Judean hills, stands over the grave of his son, Mordechai, at yesterday's funeral.

Islamic Jihad on September 14, he said that he had spoken to four of the hostages but had had no contact with Mr Buckley or Mr Kilburn. If Mr Buckley was killed three months ago, it would account for his kidnappers' failure to produce his body, forensic examination would in such circumstances quickly prove that he was killed long before the Israeli raid

which was claimed to be the reason for his death. US officials in Washington also suspect that it might reveal signs of torture.

For obvious reasons, neither the US Administration nor its embassies in the Middle East wish to speak privately about their darkest suspicions. At least four other Americans are known to be alive and in good

health - and experience in Beirut has suggested that carelessness rhetoric from Washington can have incalculable effects here.

If recent rumours of an impending release of US hostages are true, Washington would be unwise if it expected too many strong views on the gunmen who still control the lives of the surviving captives.

Philippine priests fear torture of colleague

From Paul Routledge, Cebu, Philippines

Roman Catholic priests are clinging to the belief that Father Rudy Romano, kidnapped by armed men in daylight nearly three months ago, is still alive, in military custody.

"From our last reliable lead, we are still inclined to believe that he is alive, but what state he is in we don't know. He could have been tortured", said Father Ramon Fruto at the monastery of the Redemptorist order in Cebu City, central Philippines.

The case of the popular priest who took up the causes of urban squatters and striking factory workers is proving to be troublesome for the authorities. The military insist they are not holding him, despite three Supreme Court orders to produce him.

Yet only last week a special armed forces investigating committee said there was *prima facie* evidence to warrant the prosecution of a military intelligence corporal, Wilfredo Dagatan, for abduction.

When the trial goes ahead, the Redemptorist priests hope the military will produce Father Romano. Alternatively, he could suddenly be brought to court to face a charge of subversion. It is by no means unknown for the security forces to deny holding a suspect and then bring him out of a "safe house" when they are ready to proceed with a prosecution. "That expectation is also keeping up the spirit of Father Romano's colleagues, but they admit privately that he might already have joined the grim list of detainees who have simply disappeared, presumed murdered."

He was kidnapped on July 11 by five men in plain clothes carrying army-issue M16 rifles. A taxi driver at the scene of the abduction identified Corporal Dagatan as one of the kidnappers.

Father Fruto yesterday acknowledged the efforts made by the Criminal Investigation Service to bring a prosecution, but added: "Our primary concern is not the prosecution but the speedy return of Father Romano alive and well."

"Sufficient leads have been provided to establish the fact of his abduction by military personnel... Does this delay indicate unbelievable incompetence or a lack of willingness to produce Father Rudy for reasons known only to those who are holding him?"

Third inquiry into Pope plot

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The trial of eight people, three Bulgarians and five Turks, charged with conspiring to murder the Pope, resumes today in a still more difficult state after a report that a fresh inquiry has been ordered into the affair.

The trial began on May 27. The principal witness for the prosecution is Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who fired at the Pope on May 13, 1981, and severely wounded him.

Agca proved to be a disastrous witness. On the first day of the trial he announced he was Jesus Christ reincarnated. This gave the defence the opportunity to point out that, whatever one might think of Agca, it was difficult to argue that he habitually told the truth.

The preparatory inquiry concentrated heavily on Agca's statements to investigators to

try to show that he was correct in alleging that the Bulgarian secret service was behind the shooting.

Once he had shown in court that his reliability was highly questionable, the case against the Bulgarians was weakened.

The court has stretched the rules of procedure to the utmost - some say beyond acceptable limits - to find new witnesses among Turks under arrest in France, West Germany, The Netherlands and Turkey in an effort to check some of the allegations Agca was making in court.

These efforts also brought little except for an occasional new performance from Agca, who is clearly much happier under the arc-lamps of the television cameras in the courtroom than he is in his prison cell.

During the recent brief recess, there were rumours that Dr

Severino Santapichi, the presiding judge, was convinced the trial would best be wound up as rapidly as possible.

That would entail calling more witnesses. But after that, it was thought the hearings would be brought to an end with two likely verdicts as far as the three Bulgarian accused are concerned: acquittal or a dismissal of the charges on grounds of insufficient evidence.

The order for the opening of a new inquiry supports this view.

The new inquiry will be conducted by three investigating judges, all engaged in cases allegedly involving the Bulgarians. Their task will be to seek evidence overlooked in the earlier inquiries and as far as possible independent of the statements made by Agca. Their inquiry will be limited to three or four months.

Greek judge in trouble for challenging President

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A young Greek judge who challenged the validity of President Sartzetakis' election by Parliament is being referred to a disciplinary council, the Justice Ministry announced.

Judge Sotiris Katsaros, aged 31, imposing a 25-day prison sentence (or equivalent fine) in the case of a football club president found guilty of insulting the referee after a game.

In his summing up, Judge Katsaros said he refused to abide by the new version of the penal code, which is written in demotic Greek, because the decree bore the signature of Mr Christos Sartzetakis whose elec-

tion as President last March was, in his opinion, null and void.

The judge invoked two arguments: first that the crucial vote had been passed by the president of Parliament but was invalid because he was at the time acting head of state; secondly, that coloured ballot papers used in the election had prejudiced the secrecy.

The surprise ruling came as New Democracy, the main opposition party, which had refused to recognize President Sartzetakis for precisely the same reasons, accepted his legality.

Unanimous UN vote on raid upsets Israelis

From Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Israeli officials yesterday said they were deeply disappointed by the American decision not to veto a UN resolution condemning Israel's air raid on the Palestinian headquarters in Tunisia.

The US abstained in a UN Security Council vote on Saturday which condemned the attack as an act of armed aggression against Tunisia. The resolution was passed by 14-0.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, said on state radio he was disappointed the US had contradicted President Reagan's view of the raid as an expression of Israeli self-de-

fence. Other Israeli officials criticized the resolution as one-sided because it made no mention of the killing of three Israelis on board their yacht in Larnaca, Cyprus.

ALAIN PROST'S SUCCESS IS CRYSTAL CLEAR.

Let's raise our glasses to Alain Prost - new World Champion. Alain clinched the title in his McLaren TAG turbo at Brands Hatch in the 1985 Shell Oils Grand Prix of Europe. Throughout the winning season his car has been fuelled by Shell and protected by

Shell's new technology engine oil. Congratulations Alain. Shell are proud to be part of this winning team. The actual racewinner was presented with a magnificent crystal glass trophy especially commissioned by Shell Oils with Royal Brierley Glass.



Shell Oils



Army chief tightens his grip as report on Thai mutiny is denounced

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The Thai Army's official report on last month's attempt to overthrow the Government has failed to dispel suspicions that officers still holding senior positions were involved in the plot.

Politicians and academics described the account as "the usual whitewash" and condemned its failure to answer key questions. No one, however, is willing to speak out publicly.

They say it is up to the police to provide the answers. For the first time in Thai history, civilian police are investigating an attempted military coup. Police officials say they hope to present their report to General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, on Thursday, when he returns from visits to the United Nations and London.

The appearance of the army report coincides with the introduction of a new command structure which appears to

strengthen the position of General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the supreme commander. Most divisional commanders and a majority of officers in key positions at Army and Supreme Command headquarters are seen as Arthit men.

The army report on the events of September 9 emphasises the role played by General Arthit in putting down the mutiny. The report refers to "a spate of rumours within Thailand and abroad to undermine the military institution and to besmirch the reputation of some officers."

Unsigned leaflets circulating in Bangkok accuse General Arthit of masterminding the revolt, a charge he strenuously denies. He has frequently clashed with the

General Arthit was visiting Sweden in his capacity as chief of the Thai telephone organization when the rebellion oc-

curred. Reports published in Sweden and other countries and later distributed clandestinely in Thailand said the general was at the receiving end of some exotic hospitality in a Stockholm hotel provided by a local telephone equipment company at the time tanks began shooting wildly into heavily populated districts of Bangkok.

Only the man accused of leading the mutiny, former Colonel Manoon Roopkachorn, is said to have issued orders for the tanks to open fire. Colonel Manoon and his brother, an Air Force officer, were permitted to escape from Thailand.

About 130 military officers and men are being held for their part in the rebellion and may be tried for treason. Four retired generals, including the former Prime Minister, Kriangsak Chomanan, and four trade union leaders are being held on similar charges.



The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the International Equestrian Federation, with Mr Lee Gun Yung, head of the Korean equestrian organization, arriving in Seoul to preside at the federation's executive meeting. The British Ambassador, Mr Nicholas Spreckley, is on the right.

Uganda acts on troop atrocities

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Uganda's ruling Military Council sent a high-powered delegation to Luero, 42 miles north of Kampala, in a bid to end widespread atrocities including the killing, raping and robbing of villagers by undisciplined troops.

Two hundred frightened villagers seeking refuge in a church told them about 20 women and schoolgirls had

been abducted, raped and forced to cook food for the soldiers.

One man, in tears, told how his daughter, aged 6, was raped. The local priest said women and girls had been dragged out of the church and raped.

Many villagers had been shot dead, and the survivors said they had not been allowed to bury them. Houses were looted,

and several hundred soldiers were living in a school.

Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Oduor, with three other members of the Military Council and the Interior Minister, Mr Paul Semogerere, flew in a helicopter on Saturday. The commander of the local army unit was removed, and the soldiers were told to free the women hostages and to return looted property.

Only one winner in Burma poll

Delhi - Burma went to the polls yesterday in elections for a new national assembly and local councils. The result is a foregone conclusion as the Burma Socialist Programme Party is the only one whose candidates are allowed to stand.

The Burmese Republic has been a military dictatorship

since the present strong man, General Ne Win, aged 74, seized power in a bloodless coup in 1962. But he is plainly beginning to feel his age and the new Parliament, the Phithu Hluttaw or People's Assembly, will be more significant for the indications it gives about the succession to the general, whose

hold on power resides in his post as chairman of the party. In 1981, he handed over the job of President of the country to one of his closest and most loyal aides, Brigadier San Yu. The brigadier's position as number two in the hierarchy was confirmed at the year's fifth party conference

HAVE THE TUNNEL BUILDERS REALLY LOOKED INTO ALL THE PROBLEMS?

The idea of a Channel Tunnel isn't new. Various eccentric schemes have been proposed for over a hundred years.

But the idea doesn't improve with age.

Because the concept of any fixed link between Britain and France is based upon a foundation of uncertainties and unreliable assumptions.

How will the builders ensure that the Channel Tunnel is safe? And how will maintenance and the inevitable repairs be carried out without causing delays and closures?

What will it cost to build? Published figures put it at anywhere between £4.7 billion and £50 billion. The completion date of the project is equally vague. Estimates range from 6 years to 20 years.

The futility of forecasts is further underlined by predictions that cross-channel traffic will double before the year 2000. In fact, the amount of traffic crossing the channel has already dropped.

Fluctuations in exchange, interest and inflation rates are other potential problem areas. As is the question of fixing a competitive toll that will both generate business and provide an adequate financial return.

Ignoring these problems won't make them go away. If anyone of them should hatch, it could seriously endanger any fixed link scheme.

Then the investor will be left with more than just egg on his face.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

The black hole that will put Britain in the red.

Flexilink

America's conservatives: Part 1

Setting the scene for lasting social change

American conservatives believe that the changes they are fomenting in the social and political fabric of the nation will endure long after President Reagan is gone. In the first of two articles, Michael Binyon, Washington Correspondent, outlines the areas where they are having the greatest impact.

Right-wing activists, arguably the most influential force in the United States today, intend not only to stamp their ideology on the Republican Party, but to bring about profound and irreversible change in American society.

Today's conservatives are crusaders, and their neo-conservative allies - many from democratic, intellectual and often Jewish backgrounds - have the zeal of the newly converted. Their programme is harshly ideological, and their tactics unashamedly confrontational.

With methodical patience they seek to place trusted members of the movement in senior government posts, infiltrate the press and influence public opinion, isolate the liberal establishment, train conservative cadres and create an elite that will outlast a change of administration.

Consolidating political power was the first aim, and the election of Ronald Reagan gave conservatives their long-awaited opening. They have forced great change in the Republican Party, though at a cost of deepening a split between pragmatic centrists and the New Right.

Liberal Republicans such as Senator Charles Mathias, who last week announced his retirement in 1986, have found less and less room for their views. Congressmen of both parties now vote with one eye on the conservative lobby.

The conservatives have now turned their attention to the social agenda, and in some areas have seen rapid success. The most important are:

A Education. Conservatives have encouraged a popular back to basics movement in the school curriculum. Liberal experiments are being cast aside in favour of more discipline, rigour and testing. Teachers are being judged and paid by results and may have to take regular tests to ensure they keep up to standard. Less time and money is to be spent on the disadvantaged and minorities, and some programmes such as bilingual education may be dismantled.

Bussing is being halted where legally possible and local authorities are encouraged to make their own decisions on school organisation. The big fight, however, has been over the re-introduction of school prayers. The administration has so far failed to persuade the Supreme Court to modify its ban. But Mr William Bennett, the Conservative Education Secretary, insists that schools must teach American values in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Civil Rights. "Affirmative action" - programmes to encourage more blacks and other minorities to enter college or take up skilled jobs - is vigorously opposed by the Justice Department, which says it has led to institutionalised quotas and reverse discrimination. Some 50 cities

are being sued for discrimination. Conservatives have encouraged a new mood of nationalism in the US, especially on campuses, in public speeches and during such crises as the holding of the American hostages. Support for a strong defence and vigorous foreign policy is translated into attempts to ensure more right-wing influence in the Foreign Service, the flying of the flag more often in more places, and an end to "pessimism" in public life.

Decentralization. Conservatives promote "federalism", returning more power to the states as a means of undercutting the influence of Washington. For the same reasons they also support tax cuts, deregulation and a free market as a way of getting government out of people's lives. Practical steps include the break-up of the monopoly telephone system, the cut in subsidies for public transport, and the deregulation of the airlines.

Patriotism. Conservatives have encouraged a new mood of nationalism in the US, especially on campuses, in public speeches and during such crises as the holding of the American hostages. Support for a strong defence and vigorous foreign policy is translated into attempts to ensure more right-wing influence in the Foreign Service, the flying of the flag more often in more places, and an end to "pessimism" in public life.

Tomorrow: conservative lobbyists

Peru bans wide range of imports

Lima (Reuters) - Peru's two-month-old Government has announced widespread import bans as part of an economic package aimed at conserving foreign reserves and tackling inflation of 183 per cent.

President Garcia outlined some of the new economic measures in a television address last night. The rest were announced in an Economy Ministry communiqué and in decrees issued by the President's office.

Under the package, "non-essential" imports including textiles, clothes, shoes, domestic appliances, paints and cigarettes will be banned so that net foreign reserves of about \$1 billion (£7 billion) can be used to import essential goods.

President Garcia said a price freeze introduced on August 1 would be widened to cover all state-produced goods and services, including petrol sales until the end of the year.

The Economy Ministry said it would lift an 8 per cent sales tax on 14 widely purchased goods, including paraffin, cooking oil, candles, fertilizer and insecticide.

Prison riot: Calm returned to Peru's biggest prison yesterday after about 6,000 inmates rioted for several hours in protest against police action in quelling a mutiny in which 30 inmates died, police said.

Banda offers friendship to East bloc

Mzuzu, Malawi (AFP) - President Banda closed the annual convention of his Malawi Congress Party by stating he did not like the communist system but wanted to have good relations with Eastern bloc countries.

Dr Banda, ruler of Malawi and unquestioned leader of the country's only legal party, is known for strongly Western and capitalist views. His Government is one of the few in black Africa with acknowledged important trading links with South Africa and Israel.

No big changes were announced at the conference, although there has been speculation over who will replace Dr Banda after his death. It is forbidden by law to speculate on his age, but he is known to be more than 80.


Speaking to the party's 1,000 delegates and many international guests, Dr Banda said he did not advocate communism. "I personally don't like communism and I do not believe in it. But I understand it and know why it came about in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe."

Women flee

Jakarta (AFP) - Large numbers of housewives have fled from their homes in West Java, for fear of being forced to have contraceptive intra-uterine devices in the Government's birth control drive.

scene for
change

been ordered to stop
discrimination by race and in
the programmes set up in the
past 15 years. And on the
national question of voter
registration, the Department
is the courts no longer to
take into consideration possible
discrimination of the Black ethnic vote
in election boundaries and
gerrymandering.



The Judiciary.
The right of
pressing the
Administration
to vet all future
appointments to
the federal ju-
diciary.

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Volkswagen is top in guide

Motoring Contest
Ford and Austin Rover, the two leading car makers in Britain, do not have a model among the 16 chosen by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* as "best buys" in its latest guide to buying new and used cars.

That contrasts with Vauxhall, the General Motors company, which has three. The Nova, Astra and Cavalier.

The cars most favoured by the 25,000 motorists who took part in the survey, and on which the guide is based, were the West German Volkswagen/Audi. They had a joint top rating in four of the five categories.

showing, with three Nissan, two Toyota and a Honda praised. In making its selection,

Which? places special emphasis on reliability because its regular surveys show that it has the highest priority for most car buyers.

It claims that reliability is poor on Ford's latest Fiesta, XR3i and 1.6 Sierra and Cortina that is now out of production. On the other hand, the bodywork of Granada, Capri, Mark 3 Escort and Fiesta is "lasting well".

Austin Rovers of all ages are reported to be "beset by persistent problems". The exception is the Honda-Accclaim Triumph Acclaim recently replaced by the Rover 216 and 216.

Which! recommendations in each class are: bargain basement, Citroen Visa and Fiat Uno; small hatch-back, Nissan Micra, Vauxhall Nova, VW Polo; small family car, Nissan

Sunny, Toyota Corolla, Vauxhall Astra, VW Golf, larger family cars, Audi 80, Honda Accord, Toyota Carina, Vauxhall Cavalier, executive car, Audi 100 and Volvo 200, high-roof estate, Nissan Prairie.

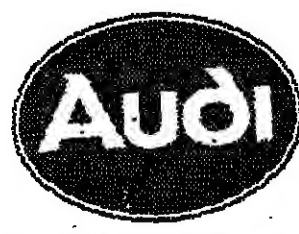
Ford said last night: "We really are getting tired of the same old criticisms in *Which!* based on very small survey samples of each model. We know from our own much more detailed monitoring that there have been great strides in the improvement of quality and reliability."

Austin Rover said: "The criticism of the Maestro and Montego is at complete variance with the increasing success of those cars. People do not buy failures and especially not the big fleet buyers who are going for Montego in a big way".

for Montego in 2 big ways.

THE TIMES, FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 1985

**Last week a certain consumer report
(we can't say which) voted us
winners in four out of five categories.**



The two finest makes of car in Europe.

SPECTRUM

Strain on the Tory purse

As the Conservatives prepare to meet tomorrow in Blackpool, George Hill reports on the party's shakiness over finances and regional differences



The Conservative Party's financial condition is not as sound as might be expected in the faction of wealth and privilege. In fact Lord McAlpine's wizardry, as honorary treasurer, at waiving large cheques for the party out of the funds of companies is a matter of urgent significance.

In the early 1980s the party suffered an acute financial crisis which forced it to cut back severely on staff and sell assets. In true entrepreneurial spirit it did what was needed.

With magnificent insouciance it ceased to publish its account in the period of embarrassment (a decision accepted meekly by the party at large, who are quite happy, except for the small and indignant Charter Group, to be left in the dark so long as their leaders are successful). This year a highly uninformative set of accounts has been published, and shows another deficit, of £800,000.

Paradoxically, the Tories are less secure in their sources of funds today than Labour. The party depends heavily on company donations (members' subscriptions are set at a recommended rate of £6 "to cover costs", though the actual rate paid is scarcely half that). Company largesse fluctuates, declining sharply in non-election years or when the zeal of major contributors cools.

Labour, on the other hand, is assured of a steady income after this summer's successful ballots on trade union levies. Union affiliations raise a sum which is often larger in total than the aggregate of company contributions and can be raised almost painlessly when necessary.

Mr Arthur Scargill is notoriously as effective a drummer-up of funds for the Tories as Lord McAlpine. But the rise of the Alliance and a marginalization of extremist politics might create a situation where boards of directors feel less impelled to buoy up Toryism against threat.

The very public recent disaffection and gloom expressed in the CBI and by the Institute of Directors shows that there are limits to the business community's devotion to Thatcherism. Like the electorate, they expect more and more, as time passes, to see results to compensate for privations undergone.

The party also faces regional disparities. In Scotland these problems are illustrated by last week's public resignation threat by Iain Lawson, one of its most active workers beyond the border, and the refusal of the steering committee of the Campaign for the Communication of Conservative Policies, which he founded, to elect a new chairman in his place.

Scotland does have special problems of its own, in particular the revaluation of the rating system, an issue that the Government has handled even more unhappily there than in England.

The threatened closure of the Gartoch steel plant has taken on a symbolic resonance: the Government has virtually committed itself to disregarding its own market principles and allowing the superfluous steelworks to survive for the sake of employment, but Mrs Thatcher recently gave strong hints that Gartoch, widely seen as an integral part of the complex, is doomed.

When Iain Lawson announced his defection last week, he declared: "This is the tip of the iceberg. If Gartoch is closed next March there will be many more resignations."

The Scottish party hierarchy has reacted to this with outward aplomb. A senior party worker at Central Office in London, who knows Scotland well, admits that all the parties have a problem with Scotland: "So many people down here aren't actually aware of north of Watford, let alone Scotland. But Scotland is quite heterogeneous, and in fact many of our seats there are not in the central belt, where I suspect the main movement to Labour has taken place."

As for the north, a regional officer insists that the party's poor showing there does not indicate a real swing to Labour or the Alliance. "I can see no sign of anyone manifestly gaining on us - it's all in a 'plague on both your houses' spirit."

Tories who say "Look what your Government is doing" between elections, and then come back and say "What can we do to help?" when election time comes round."

PARTY PROFILE: MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE AND FINANCE

Constituencies: The party has a constituency association in each of the 650 seats in Great Britain, with a total membership of about 1.2m (a figure which has been steady in the 1980s, though smaller than the 1.5m recorded in the early 1970s). The constituencies are organized in 11 areas in England and Wales; Scotland has a separate party with its own Central Office. Scotland and Wales have annual conferences of their own. But all constituencies in Great Britain are affiliated to the National Union.

National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations: The principal corporate manifestation of the party, its officers elected by the constituency associations. The party conference is its annual gathering, to which each constituency association has the right to submit resolutions and send eight representatives, free to speak and vote on all policy questions.

Tories in Parliament

England: 362 out of 523 MPs

Scotland: 21 out of 72 MPs

Wales: 13 out of 38 MPs

Peers: 528 out of 1,196

MEPs: 80 out of 81 UK members.

The party's members in the Commons elect the leader, with provision for an election each year if the demand exists.

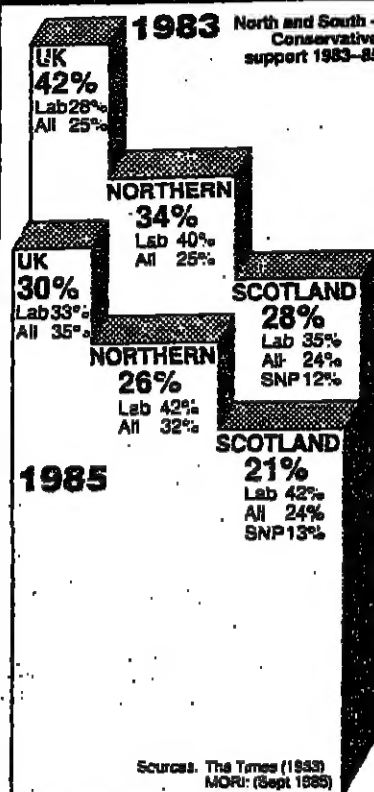
Central Office: The party's administrative headquarters. Chairman, deputy and five vice-chairmen appointed by leader. Eight departments: communications (press and publicity); Conservative Political Centre (political education, discussion documents, etc); research department (long-term policy planning); finance and resources (administrative management and support, detailed budgeting and accounting); local government (liaison with councillors, planning local elections); organization and community affairs (constituency coordination, training of agents, responsible for groups such as Conservative Trade Unionists, Federation of Conservative Students, Community Groups Unit, Young Conservatives, etc); international office (visitors and foreign contacts); women's national committee.

Conservative Central Income and Expenditure 1973/4 to 1983/4 (£m)

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
1973/4	2.4m	0.4m	2.0m
1974/5	1.2m	0.3m	0.9m
1975/6	1.1m	0.6m	0.5m
1976/7	1.3m	0.6m	0.7m
1977/8	1.9m	0.7m	1.2m
1978/9	2.4m	0.8m	1.6m
1979/80	4.5m	0.9m	3.6m
1980/1	2.2m	0.5m	1.7m
1981/2	2.9m	1.0m	1.9m
1982/3	3.7m	1.0m	2.7m
1983/4	8.7m	1.1m	7.6m

Asterisks denote general election years. The statistics have been drawn up on the same basis as those in *British Political Finance*, Table 26. Figures for 1983/4 are estimates. Interest received is net of tax and net of interest paid. Donations are net of fund-raising costs. Constituency income includes quota credits. State Aid is granted to opposition parties in the Commons. Inconsistencies in totals are due to rounding. Source: Conservative Central Office Annual Reports and supplementary information.

(a) Includes repayments of tax overpaid in previous years. (b) Author's estimate. Source: M. Pinto-Duschinsky, *Parliamentary Affairs*, Summer 1985



Conservative Board of Finance: Separate from Central Office to avoid involvement in policy issues. Responsible for all fund-raising and passing funds to Central Office. Treasurers appointed by leader.

Finance

Last week the party published itemized accounts for the first time since 1979-80. Considerably less informative than those of the other major parties, they show an income of £11.1m for 1984-5, and expenditure £800,000 in excess of that. Central income and expenditure (in brackets) has been in deficit more often than not in recent years:

1983-84: £9.8m (£9.8m);
1982-83: £4.8m (£4.7m);
1981-82: £4.1m (£4.2m);
1980-81: £3.2m (£3.5m);
1979-80: £5.6m (£5.2m).

The accounts for 1984-85 show income from constituencies (subscriptions, functions and interest) as £7.5m; donations received centrally "net of costs" as £3.3m; and £300,000 from other sources (affiliation fees, interest, etc). The largest item of expenditure was constituency organization, including agents and "centrally-based area staff": this accounted for £7.9m. Central Office cost £2.5m. "Central resources": publicity and press communications cost £1.5m.

Top Tory donors

	£
British & Commonwealth Shipping	97,900
Racal	75,000
London & Northern	57,000
Plessey	55,000
AGB Research	50,000
Distillers	50,000
Hanson Trust	50,000
United Blisuits	49,500
Northern Engineering Industries	45,000
Newarthill	43,000
Trafalgar House	40,000
Trusthouse Forte	40,000

Labour Research August 1985

Father and son in sharp focus

"This", said screenwriter Rospo Pallenberg to director John Boorman, "is probably the last time we shall ever speak." That was in February last year.

Pallenberg was outraged at Boorman's decision to cast his own son, Charley, as the star of his film *The Emerald Forest*. He told him it would make him look a fool or a psychotic. He intended ringing the production company, Embassy, and advising them not to make the movie with Charley Boorman as the star.

Boorman and Pallenberg have not spoken since. Embassy went ahead with Charley - they had already approved his screen tests before they knew who he was - and the film has opened in America to rave reviews with only a couple of dissenting voices.

The film is about the destruction of the Amazonian rain forests and the Indian tribes which live there. But, at its heart, is the theme of father-son relationships which make the casting of Charley doubly daring. It is one thing to spend \$13m of Embassy's money on a film starring your son, it is quite another to turn the whole project into a kind of disguised autobiography.

"It was", says Boorman with a degree of understatement, "a tremendously difficult situation. We couldn't find anybody who had the right degree of innocence. I felt the boy needed to be just on the verge of manhood - with a man's body but still something of a baby - to make the situation that much more poignant. Rospo wanted somebody older. I think that's where things started to go wrong."

Charley plays the son of an American engineer who is kidnapped by Indians acting in the belief that they are saving him from the horrors of white civilization. He is brought up by the tribe and then found 10 years later by his natural father. By this time he has an Indian father and the story centres on the confrontation between the two men and the choice facing their son.



The son: Charley... growing up under the camera

The world of the Indians, suffused with magic and ritual, required elaborate and painstaking recreation. It also required the actors to define a wholly alien way of viewing the world. Even these demands added to Boorman's conviction that Charley was the only possible choice for the part.

"He is heavily dyslexic - he can hardly read. I think that allowed him to relate to a non-literate society much better. But I was still terribly nervous about casting him - you can't be sure you're right when you're looking at your own son on the screen."

In fact, Boorman has cast his children in minor roles before. Charley appeared as Jon Valgr's son in the very last scene of *Deliverance*.

and he cropped up again in *Excalibur* with his older sister Catrina.

Boorman movies tend to become family affairs. His own company is called Charistel Films after his wife, who works as a costume designer. And throughout his career he has made a point of taking his four children with him around the world.

With Charley in *The Emerald Forest*, he found the theme of the film becoming inextricably tangled with his own relationship with his son. He noticed that Charley called him John during shooting and Dad in the evenings. Increasingly, he found the making of the film a way for them to act out the process of a father letting go of his son on the attainment of manhood.



The father: John Boorman... a disguised autobiography

On a professional level he uses family links to weld together film crews. "It helps create an environment in which actors can work. Films create a very noisy, hostile, brutal, insensitive environment in which it is very difficult to create the sort of intimacy you need to direct an actor."

Such problems are worse for Boorman because, although his films are personal and visionary, he insists that they are made for the worldwide popular market. He is not interested in small-budget art films. For him the power of movies lies in their international popularity, their ability to cross all boundaries. So his task is always to begin from his ideas and then to struggle with the big studios and their big bucks.

This time he has recorded the struggle in *Money Into Light*, a diary of the making of the film which chronicles the endless nightmare of bringing together all the elements - personal, financial and political - necessary to make a movie.

The Emerald Forest combines Boorman's characteristic imagery with a ferocious attack on the destruction of the rain forests and potentially of all the ancient knowledge possessed by the Indians but long lost by us. As such it is an uneasy mixture and it becomes clear before long that the point-making takes precedence over the film-making.

But the studios are happy. Money is rolling in from the United States, and in France it is something of a blockbuster. Charley is currently making a television film with Paul Scofield.

Bryan Appleyard

Money Into Light is published by Faber and Faber at £4.95.

The Emerald Forest opens at the Leicester Square Theatre on October 31 at a special premiere in aid of Earth Life's Rain Forest campaign.

The art of putting the world to rights

The niff of nepotism prevents me from using superlatives about *The Times Atlas of the World*. Fortunately there is no need to do so, as everyone knows it is the best there is.

The new edition appears today, charting on its 113 plates the myriad changes of a world in flux. The last edition appeared five years ago, when Beijing was Peking and Burkina Faso was Upper Volta.

Updating the globe is getting harder all the time, with governments keeping their own maps from the general gaze for reasons of military paranoia. Some nations have become less than honest about the course of their railways and new roads; all in all the climate of the world is not geared to the flourishing of cartography.

Since the last edition of the *Times Atlas*, Ethiopia alone has evolved no fewer than 510 new place names. Morocco and Western Sahara - 590, and Somalia - 450. China has come up with 690 new administrative alterations in the titles of its towns, Japan 300 and Indonesia

and Malaysia more than a thousand. Even in the relatively stable area of North America, Greenland has a new orthography with 190 shifts. Canada 80 and the United States itself 520. In Europe, Spanish maps have been further complicated by the addition of Basque and Catalan names.

The new foreword of this edition sets the science of cartography well in its historical context: "There is a measure of truth in the saying that map-making is older than agriculture. Orientation was as essential to the prehistoric hunter as was observation of the length of the day or a knowledge of the coming seasons. If the definition of a map embraces any depiction of terrain features, whether traced in sand or scratched on stone or bone, then cartography must be reckoned among the most ancient communications, preceding any system of writing by millennia."

The preeminence of this atlas is a blessing with a double edge:

for while it can command a degree of cooperation for which other map-makers dare not hope, it also runs the risk of "settling" contentious land disputes at the stroke of a nib. The compiler finds himself being nudged into the unwanted (and unwanted) role of arbitrator.

For example, how do you list a collection of islands in the South China Sea claimed not only by China itself but also by the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia? The answer is: with difficulty. Under whose geographical vocabulary do you include them?

"In general you find yourself having to do a balancing act," says Mr H. A. G. ("Bunny") Lewis, geographical consultant of *The Times* for more than 20 years and one of the atlas's editors. "If there is sufficient room, we will put in all the different names. Otherwise, if there is a British name we will put that one in and, as it were, let the others fight it out. The difficulty always is that by calling a place by a particular name, we go half way towards ratifying that as law."

Yet those are the least of the headaches. Take Somalia, on plate 87, the confused and confusing legatee of British nomenclature in the north and Italian in the south. Since the last edition of the atlas the country decided to adopt the Roman alphabet and with it, the place names phonetically. "It's unfamiliar to us," says Lewis: how right he is. Double "a"s and double "u"s are strewn about the Horn of Africa with prolific abandon: Sanaag, Nugaal, Galguduud, and so on, down to Buurshakaba and Bannaanka Jiir.

If you remind Mr Lewis that not so long ago *The Times Concise Atlas of the World* omitted the Shetland island of Foula, thereby cancelling at a stroke one of Britain's remotest inhabited islands, he answers in

two ways: first by suggesting politely that for a newspaper to fault the accuracy of another publication is a case of the pot calling the kettle black; and second, by telling the story of a military operations map published during the Second World War.

"They had made the plate for a map of a certain section of the Mediterranean. The following morning one of the printers came in and saw on the plate a spot that should not be there. So he removed it with acid. The spot was Malta. Later that day someone detected the error and restored the island. Next morning it was erased again, and when the map was printed, each copy had to have the dot included by hand." Point taken.

This, the seventh edition, has been published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of *The Times*, and was compiled under the direction of a committee of seven.

The world, of course, is not the place it was when The Thunderer was earning its sobriquet: a comparative study between the first, 1895, edition and the new one reveals not just a diminution of British possessions, but a considerable addition of hard information about the remotest corners. Greenland, however, is as it was then, a great slab of white up between Baffin Bay and the Norwegian Sea. The main difference is that where now there is at least a skink of contours, in 1895 the compilers could inscribe no more on the land mass than the following: "The interior is entirely covered with ice." Concise and accurate as ever.

Alan Franks

The Times Atlas of the World is published by Times Books Limited, with maps prepared by John Bartholomew and Son Ltd. (£50 until January 31 1986, and £55 from February 1 1986)



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ACROSS

- Termination (5)
- Sink tray (7)
- Boxing match (5)
- Shrank back (7)
- Seafaring (8)
- God of Love (4)
- Diminish gradually (7,4)
- Pig fat (4)
- Summary (5)
- Soothe (7)
- Entertain (5)
- Similar word (7)
- Fermenting agent (5)

DOWN

- Attack reputation (6)
- Forebode (5)
- Headgear tree (3,5)
- Base ten numeracy (7,4)
- Creedy (4)
- Reddish-brown (8)
- Labourer (7)
- Seats (6)
- Claim (6)
- Skidviper's gear (5)
- Metal money (4)

مكتبات الصحف

The man who outgunned James Bond

A best-selling author for 30 years, Alistair Maclean has always avoided publicity. Caroline Moorehead tracks the literary lion to his lonely lair

A couple of days after the publication of *HMS Ulysses* in the autumn of 1955 Alistair Maclean opened a newspaper to see a long review of his book. It was terrible. The bleak account of the doomed wartime conveyer to Murmansk was, complained the reviewer, an insult to the Royal Navy – in fact, the worst insult ever published.

From that day, Maclean has never read another review but it made no difference to his writing. "Then as now I write what I want to write," he says. "I don't ask anyone for comment."

This month over 30 years since *HMS Ulysses* placed him at the top of the world best-seller lists, comes a 28th book of fiction, a collection of short stories called *The Lonely Sea*.

When *HMS Ulysses* came out, Maclean was a reluctant teacher of English in a secondary school in a Glasgow slum, earning £650 a year and "feeling there was nothing I could teach the kids that made any sense". He was 32. Publication day this time will find him in Cannes, home for many years before a move to Dubrovnik five years ago, but still a town for which he retains great affection.

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He speaks of his new book in a somewhat mocking tone, pointing out in his rather guttural, low Scots voice, that he himself keeps none of his own books, giving away any copies that come his way immediately he receives them. "I don't think any are very good. I'm slightly dissatisfied with all of them. I'm pleased enough if at the end of the day I produce a saleable product – and that I do."

Indeed he does. No book of Maclean's says Ian Chapman, his publisher, ever sells less than a quarter of a million copies in paperback alone. What distinguishes Maclean from other writers is not that today he ranks among the top ten world bestsellers, earning around a million pounds a year, but that he has been at the top for so long.

For a while, Ian Fleming with James Bond beat him in the league of those with books selling more than a million copies. He had 13. But then Maclean drew ahead – with 16. Nearly every book he has written has been a Book Club choice. Almost invariably, huge budget films, with star casts have followed. (He has never liked any of them.) He sells excellently in America but is best loved in Denmark, Norway and Finland, he says, because he understands about cold.

Something of Maclean's watchful and wary attitude towards the book world has obviously been with him unchanged since the beginning. Ian Chapman is fond of telling the tale of what he calls Maclean's fairy story. In the early 1950s, Chapman was working in the Bible department of Collins in Glasgow. One rainy Saturday, sitting over a manuscript at home, he noticed that his wife Marjory was in tears over a prize-winning short story she was reading in the *Glasgow Herald*. Having read and admired it, he hunted down its author to a furnished flat on the other side of the city.

Over dinner, he learned that Maclean was the third son of a Gaelic-speaking clergyman, that he had spent five years in the Royal Navy as a torpedo man, that he had grown up on a farm outside Inverness, and later kept himself at university by working in the post office and sweeping the streets.

All that winter, Chapman kept urging Maclean to tackle a full-length novel. One day a brown paper parcel tied up with string was put into his hands: it was *HMS Ulysses*, a highly autobiographical account of Maclean's own days on board a cruiser with the East Coast Convoy Escorts.

Seventy-two hours later, William Collins in London had offered an advance of £1,000 – great riches for the 1950s. When Chapman, overwhelmed, hastened round with the news, Maclean stared at him unmoved. Finally, with reluctance, he stepped aside: "Och. You'd better come

in." Within three months the book had sold 250,000 copies and was a Book Society choice. Of it, Maclean says now, with his mouth turning down in a thin smile: "I had a go, and the go went."

Far too cautious to view what he had done as anything but a fluke, Maclean refused to give up the teaching that so depressed him until, a year later, *The Guns of Navarone* met with the same acclaim. But then, after a pause in the south, he was off, to a villa built just outside Lucerne in Switzerland, with his wife Gisela – he had met her in a hospital in Surrey where he had been scrubbing the floors after demobilization – and the first of his three sons.

From the dining-room table, on a big electric IBM typewriter, rising early and working hard, Maclean produced success upon success. He never rewrote anything and resisted, with considerable stubbornness, even minor editorial changes proposed by Collins.

Momentarily at odds with his publishers, he chose to produce two books under the pseudonym of Ian Stuart, the name of the Chapman's son, a joke designed to provoke. There are two versions of what happened next. Chapman maintains that the books sold 10,000 copies each, but that when reissued as written by Maclean their sales rocketed to their normal figures: Maclean, however, says that they were best sellers all along.

Ten books on, however, and Maclean had had enough. He returned to England, bought a hotel on Bodmin Moor called Jamaica Inn and three others and became a hotelier. "Basically I'm a very idle man". But he grew bored. Four years later he was seduced back to the typewriter when an American film producer called Elliot Kastner asked him to write a script for *Where Eagles Dare*. That became a book.

With the ensuing inevitable success he returned to his yearly best seller, writing solely, he will tell anyone who asks him, for money. But now that he cannot possibly need more money? Maclean, who speaks of himself only with the most tortured unwillingness, and has given no interview for nearly 10 years, will not be drawn. When he chooses to, he says nothing.

A shy, slight, stiff man, he speaks so quietly and with such a strong Scottish accent that he is not always easy to follow. He deflects questions and peers, almost solely, over the top of enormous round glasses that slip slowly to the very tip of his nose, before he catches them as they are about to topple over. A wary look, and considerable courtesy, mitigate the severity. With his high prominent forehead, pale blue eyes and a small moustache, he has the manner and appearance of a particularly retiring and defensive academic.

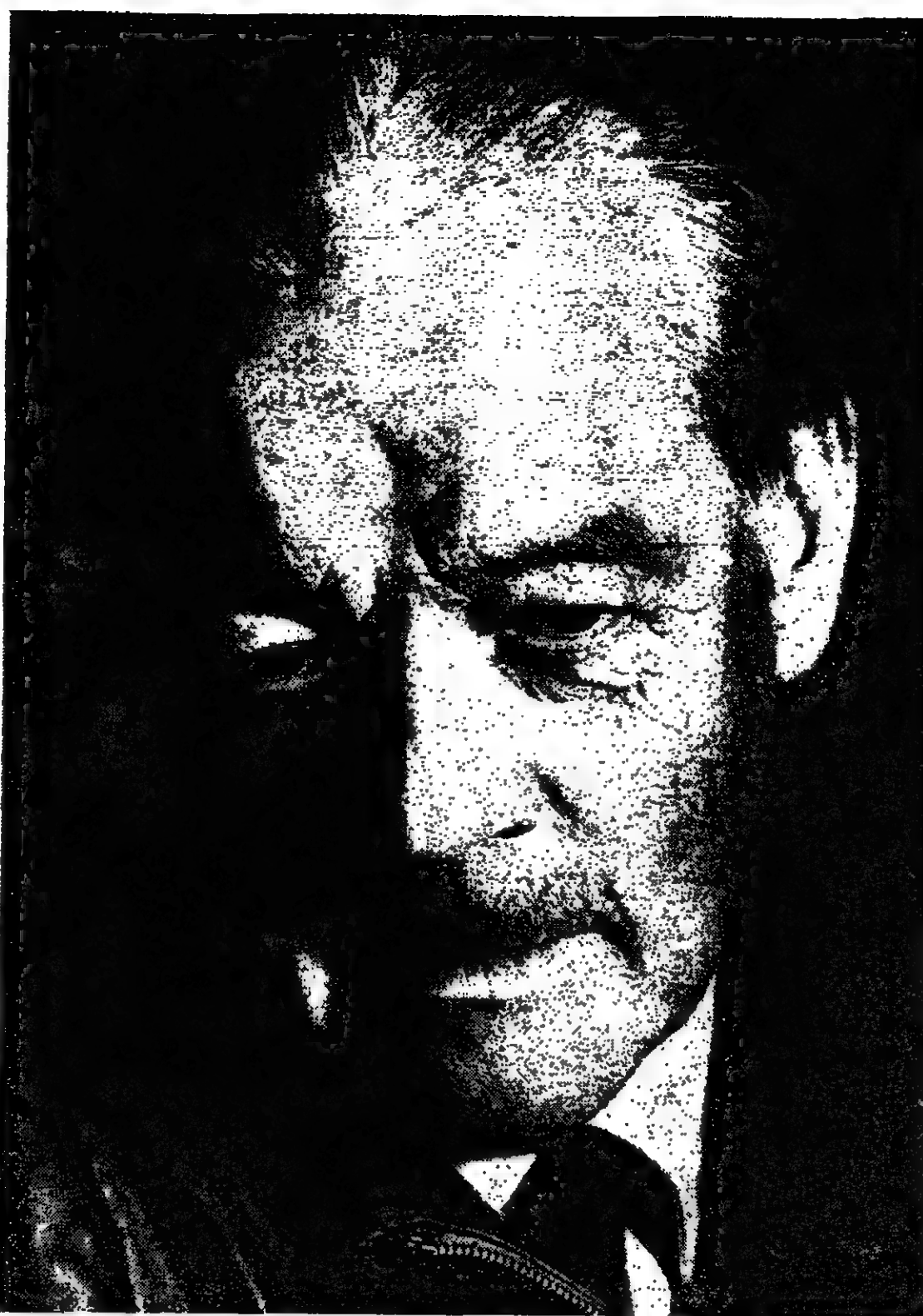
The writing life back on course, Maclean decided to keep moving. Cannes, Cap d'Antibes, Geneva and California were all briefly home. Finally, almost by chance, he decided to rest in Dubrovnik in the early 1980s. Returning from a trip to Zagreb and Belgrade, where he had been searching out a barely remembered wartime newsreel of a bridge blowing up with a girl standing on it, he saw the town and told his secretary: "I'm coming here". Why Dubrovnik? "What took me anywhere?" But he does admit to liking the sea.

He is as frugal as he is reticent, a trait of character that comes, say his friends to whom he is unfailingly generous, as much from the austerity of his childhood as from a feeling that it is morally wrong to earn so much.

His flat consists of a single floor, with a terrace covered in bougainvillea directly above the sea, where he watches the liners and cargo ships coming into port. He has no servants. His eyesight is poor, so a friend drives him to the cinema. The Dubrovnik harbour there is a Chris Craft. These are his only luxuries; he has no interest in food except for fresh fish, no collection of pictures, no expensive clothes.

But Maclean will only speculate as to why his books work: "All I do is write simple stories. There is enough real violence in the world without my adding to it." And then he adds: "I am lucky."

The Lonely Sea is to be published by Collins, at £9.95.



In solitude: Alistair Maclean, willing exile from his native Scotland

Picture: Snowden

THE SUCCESS STORY

BOOKS: FICTION: *HMS Ulysses*, 1955; *The Guns of Navarone*, 1957; *South by Java Head*, 1958; *The Last Frontier*, 1958; *Night without End*, 1960; *Fear is the Key*, 1961; *The Dark Crusader*, 1961 (written as Ian Stuart); *The Golden Handcuffs*, 1962; *The Satan Bug*, 1962 (written as Ian Stuart); *Ice Station Zebra*, 1963; *When Eight Bells Toll*, 1966; *Where Eagles Dare*, 1967; *Force Ten From Navarone*, 1968; *Puppet on a Chain*, 1969; *Caravan to Vaccara*, 1970; *Bear Island*, 1971; *The Way to Dusty Death*, 1972; *Breakheart Pass*, 1974; *Cirque*, 1975; *The Golden Gate*, 1976; *Seawitch*, 1977; *Goodbye California*, 1977; *Athabasca*, 1980; *River of Death*, 1981; *Partisans*, 1982; *Floodgate*, 1983; *San Andreas*, 1984. NON FICTION: *Captain Cook*, 1972. All except seven of Alistair Maclean's books have been Book Club choices.

FILMS: Most of the books have been made into films, of which the most successful have been: *Where Eagles Dare*, *The Guns of Navarone*, *Force Ten From Navarone*, *Puppet on a Chain*, *Bear Island*. *HMS Ulysses*, the wartime naval epic that started his writing career, has never been filmed.

Why men should mind their language

The sex war is presently being conducted by means of cryptic utterances and veiled statements.

The first intimation that this was the case came from Mr Gerald Barrow, a retired consultant actuary, who gave evidence for the Friends' Provident Life office and was accused by Miss Jennifer Pinder of unlawfully charging her higher rates of health insurance on account of her womanhood. Women, said Mr Barrow, were prone to sickness on account of "female psychology, mental attitudes and the social attributes which sex imposes."

Come again? What on earth are the social attributes which sex imposes? I have thought about it deeply during the last month (as no doubt has Miss Pinder, who lost her case) and the only social attributes which sex imposes that I am conscious of certainly don't result in women coming over all queer or having a funny turn. They are to do with an eagerness to please and are dictated from childhood, when one is told to behave like a nice little girl and not like a smitherenees the small boy who has just pulled your hair out by the roots because boys are expected to cut up rough.

Sympathy, understanding, concern for others, all these are certainly imposed but they don't seem good grounds for being financially penalized in adult life. Anyway, these impositions do not adhere as permanently to the female psyche as once they did.

I am cheered at the news that, long after the strike is over, miners' wives are still going off to meetings instead of making their husbands' tea. The best thing that Mr Scargill may have done is to ensure that men who once took female social attributes for granted can now tell one end of a tin-opener from another.

Hard on Mr Barrow's heels came a male doctor, cited by Kay Carmichael in *New Society*. This gentleman greeted female patients with the odd contention that: "A woman suffers from her age from the day she is born."

What does he mean exactly? What about seven-year-olds? As they blow out their birthday candles and clutch the *My Little Pony* that came as a present are they suffering? The 17-year-old bopping at the discos, the 27-year-old recently promoted to her first managerial position; the 37-year-old considering with loving explicitness not for the life of me can I picture them in doctors' surgeries demanding something to alleviate the pains of the age that they happen to be.

Perhaps after that things get a bit dodgy but then they do for



PENNY PERRICK

men too. For age-related misadventure, I don't suppose there is much to choose between the menopause and prostate trouble.

I resent these murky dictums for they make no sense and are a mean way of trying to put the fear of God into innocent women. If men wish to criticize they should do it plainly, as does Germaine Greer in an excellent book *Women: A World Report*.

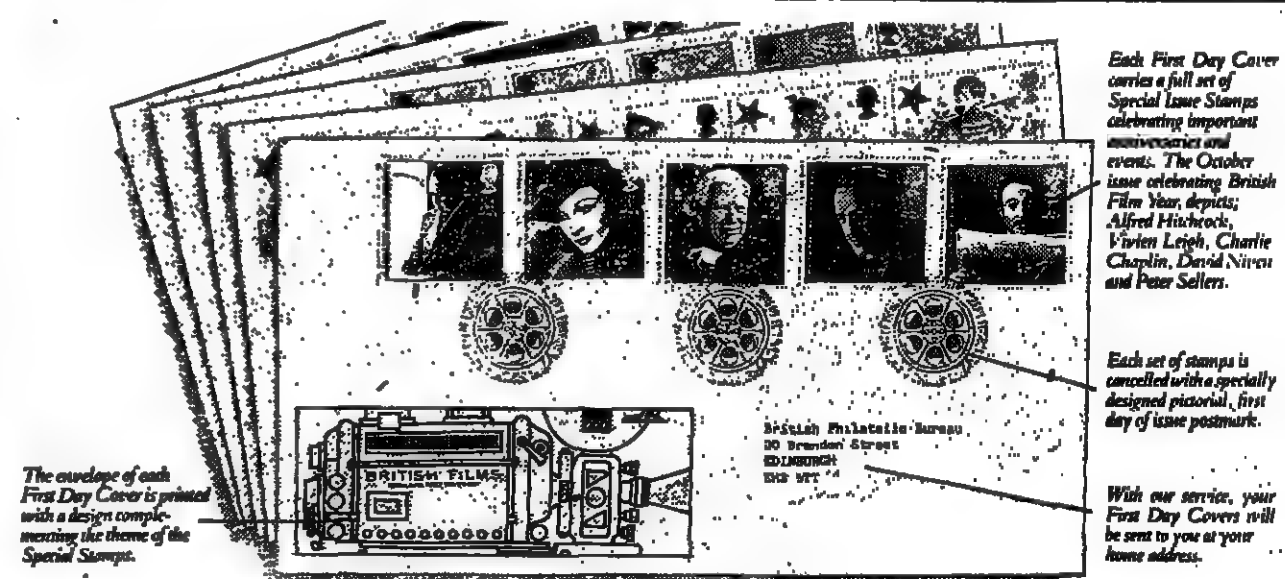
Here is Ms Greer on the Cuban woman: She "has all her emotional eggs in one basket; she is a psychic one-crop economy, directly threatened by male sanctions, in particular the withdrawal of affection and intimacy". You do not have to be Cuban to recognize her words as having crystal clarity.

I fear that women are going to have to add another job to their crowded repertoire: the hand that rocks the cradle may also have to be the one that safeguards the language.

● Marriage is a serious business so wedding-day chaos should not be a laughing matter – but it is. One of my favourite stories concerns the young doctor who, passing out drunk during his stag-night party, woke to find his leg encased in a plaster-cast. His cronies told him he had slipped and broken his leg and he spent his honeymoon much impeded. When he returned, they admitted that his leg never had been broken.

And there's the man, marrying for the second time, who ordered ten cases of champagne to be delivered to his home. Only the wine merchant's address list was somewhat out of date, and they were all delivered to the street where he used to live and where, for all I know, his first wife is still popping corks and celebrating her divorce.

● Women: A World Report, published by Methuen at £4.95 paperback.



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Dangerous game of going missing

When children go missing and are then found safe and well, they become a cheerful statistic in the country's total of short-term missing children. The worst is not always the inevitable, which is worth remembering should your youngster take the huff and his haversack away.

National figures are not available, but the police in the Metropolitan District of London recorded a total of 956 boys and girls, under 14 years of age, missing at the end of last year; the figure was divided fairly equally between the sexes. Only 85 children are still unaccounted for.

Going missing is a dangerous, if popular, form of behaviour. Yet eight children are likely to be traced or to turn up, to face the rolling-pin or the back of their father's hand, within 48 hours.

FIRST PERSON

Vivien Tomlinson

What makes a child turn his back on home? Burnt fish fingers, compulsory car-cleaning, family jealousies? Can it be sexually threatening behaviour and abuse such as incest, which we are told is now so common? These must be the reasons for some juvenile bids for freedom. In our family it was caused by two things: not doing homework and the penalty clause built into the new pocket money negotiations, which hinged on the clearance of all decayed apple cores from under the 11-year-old's bed. The actual leaving of home was accounted for by an unusual and long-overdue event – a

whack on the 11-year-old's bottom by his father.

At lunchtime I found the bedroom-banished prisoner had gone. Placed on his pillow was the following note: "I am going away and do not intend to return here to live. You obviously do not love me and in any case I hate you all. Give my money to the church and my toys and clothes to the Salvation Army. Every day at 10am put some food and a mug of water on the back step. Also some fruit. (If an orange, peel it.) I will return the mug. I do not want to go to school any more. I think I am sick. Yours spitefully, your ex-son."

His father was near tears, while I cheerfully saw no further than those nibbled fingernails being unable to peel oranges. Some hours later my laughter had quite gone. Where could he be? How did you explain to the

police that you had not scoured the neighbourhood nor dredged the local ponds? Could we admit that we had not done more than a brief search?

We were trapped between obeying the note's barely concealed messages (Love me... find me...) and restraining ourselves from wanting to strangle him.

He walked in through the back door with his fur-lined parka hood up and his sunglasses on. Just in time for *Blue Peter*.

"I've come back," he announced unnecessarily. I have forgotten how the reconciliation took place.

I do remember emptying the haversack, though; crummed together were his pyjamas, soap and flannel, and a bottle filled with water. I forgave him for not packing his toothbrush.

THE TIMES DIARY

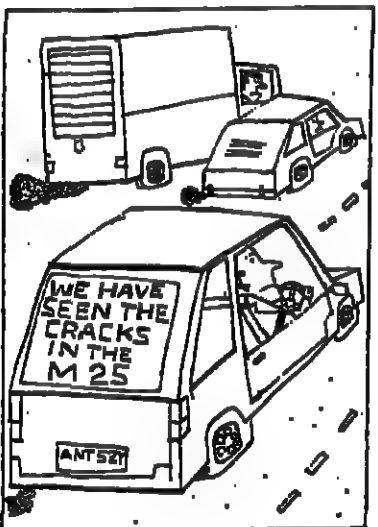
Barbican barb

The most important person in Sir Robert Mayer's last years has been left off the guest list to a concert in his memory at the Barbican next Monday. The organization, founded by Youth and Music, has pointedly excluded his widow, whom he married in 1980 when he was 101, from a "Salute to Sir Robert Mayer" to be attended by the Duchess of Gloucester. Lady Mayer, who is in her mid-fifties, believes the snub follows Sir Robert's refusal to see his children after his remarriage - his son Adrian is Youth and Music's director - and his disagreements with the board over the future of the organization. "Robert would be absolutely appalled if he knew," she says. Albert Frost, chairman of Y & M, counters that Lady Mayer had had "absolutely nothing" to do with the trust. When reminded that for two years it had employed her as Sir Robert's chauffeur and assistant, he replied: "You don't ask your office girl to meet a member of the Royal Family." He added that she could buy a ticket as a member of the public. Others might feel she deserves better treatment. After Sir Robert's death in January, the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, wrote to her: "We also think with much admiring gratitude of all that you have done and been for Sir Robert in these last years. That too has been an example of dedication."

Tall orders

I have to report dark rumblings that the French organizers of the Taittinger international chef contest are going to extremes in their desperation to avoid a repetition of last year's result, when the winner was not only a foreigner but Japanese to boot. For last week's London heat competitors were teleaxed only the set dish's title, while those in France could mug up from the whole recipe. For the finals, competitors will be given a set of ingredients and have to improvise a dish. The thinking is that while the Japanese and such like may be good "mechanical" cooks, only the French are creative. The organizers should be cheered by the London results: a French and an English chef got through while a Japanese chef from the Dorchester was unplaced. Her name was Kit Chan.

BARRY FANTONI



Ian Other

Dining at the ubiquitous Chip restaurant in Glasgow at the weekend, a couple called for the manager by his first name, Ian. From another table, an oddly familiar face turned round. His owner, realizing his mistake, announced: "You've got the wrong Ian." Not who you want, Ian Smith, the former premier of Rhodesia, he expected to greet him in the middle of Hillhead?

Flea riddance

The latest thorn - or, perhaps, thistle - in Mrs Thatcher's side is Scottish Tory Iain Lawson, who has just resigned as chairman of a policy campaign group over the closure of Garroch steel plant. Mrs Thatcher may well not be aware that the government is currently Lawson's bread and butter. For the past two years the pest control company of which he is managing director has been employed in the Falklands hunting the rodents that infest the old whaling port of Stanley. An early triumph was the extermination of a plague of South American fleas brought over at the time of the conflict. To this day a Scottish front page hangs on the wall of Lawson's Paisley office. It reads: "Gothic Scots wipe out Argie invaders".

Confession

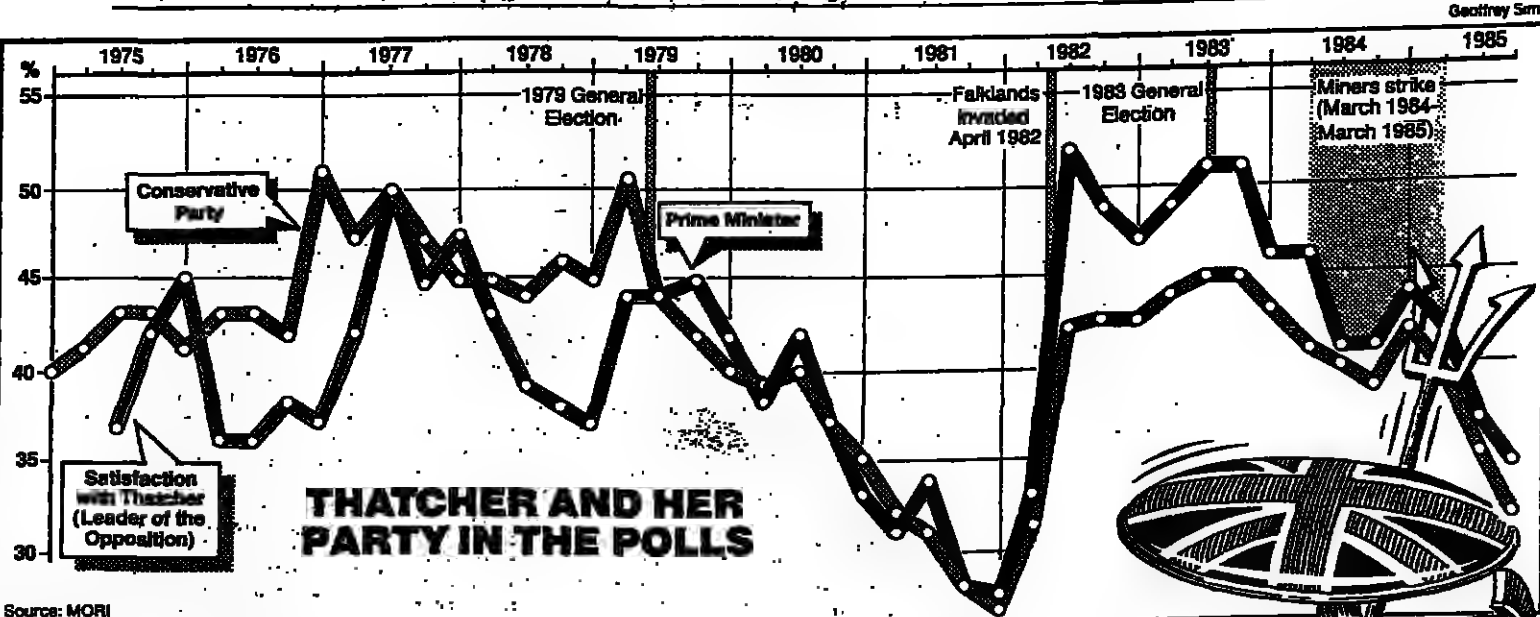
As we await the Sara Keyes' opus, the talk in Rome is that someone is about to publish transcripts of tape recordings of private meetings between Pope Paul VI and some of his most famous visitors. Sensation? An eminent member of the Roman Curia doubts it. "Most of these meetings are rather boring," he admits. "Peace, pious references to disarmament are the usual sorts of subjects..."

Prime time

Here's an idea for the Peacock Committee on BBC financing to chew over. The West African state of Liberia has levied a 50 per cent tax on one month's salary of all Liberians to pay for the Liberian broadcasting system. Sergeant Doe, the Liberian head of state, has asked his fellow countrymen to look upon the cut not "as an extra burden, but as a great sacrifice for their nation".

Opinion polls hint that Thatcher is becoming an electoral liability to her party.

In the first of a two-part series, George Brock examines the evidence



The Thatcher Factor: which way does it work now?

At Blackpool this week, a cracking and splintering noise can be heard in the background. The political landscape which Conservatives have grown used to over the last few years is breaking up. This year's conference season and the accompanying opinion polls have set the seal on new realities. There will be much attacking rhetoric from Norman Tebbit this week. But the government is also embarked on a long defensive campaign, trying to contain the damage not only from short-term banana-skin excitement, but also from gradual, deeper shifts among voters which are draining away government support.

Only the diehards of the Conservative and Labour parties pretend that the Alliance's support can be wished into extinction by talking two-party politics and nothing else. These changes have not happened overnight. They have been masked by other things: the Labour Party's collapse at the last election, the huge Conservative majority in Parliament and Thatcher's unusual personal domination of the political scene. Alliance successes in by-elections in 1981 and in the general election of 1983 made hairline cracks in the political mould, but hardly shattered it.

None of the new shifts of mood among the public foretell what will happen in an election still at least two years away, but they have gone far enough to become the material with which the campaign strategists must now work.

Politicians are now practising the more complex art of fighting on two fronts at once. The Alliance cannot be ignored and has to be fought frontally. Labour's campaign organizer Robin Cook finally admitted just before the party conference, the earlier, and less-noticed, section of Kinnock's fighting keynote speech was very clearly aimed at wooing Alliance voters.

Viscount Whitelaw boomed the other day that Tories tempted by the Alliance were creating a "Trojan horse for socialism": that a split anti-Labour vote might let Kinnock into Downing Street by default.

They must identify the decisive reasons for lost support

The government's opinion poll rating has fallen by an average of about 10-15 per cent over the last year. Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) poll last week found it only 3 points above its pre-Falklands low. Conservatives may hope that this is nothing more than a mid-term trough. But it is increasingly hard to plan solely on that basis. The planners must also identify the most decisive reasons for the loss of support and mount a damage containment exercise which fits with the government's established medium-term strategies. They must also continue to hope that the anti-Conservative vote will remain as evenly split as it was in 1983.

The Alliance response to these changes must be to continue a careful - and so far profitable - study of how far Thatcher has really altered the political landscape, since she came to power. Much, though not all, of the Alliance's success during the Thatcher years has been derived from blending elements of Thatcher's appeal into its image.

But there are limits to the Thatcher conversion of Britain: which is easily exaggerated. Major shifts of attitude have taken place, but her success does not necessarily amount to a fundamental "realignment" of British politics. A BBC/Gallup survey of 1983 attitudes showed the British people to be, in the words of Professor Ivor Creese, "not overwhelmingly Thatcherite". There was strong support for "pro-Thatcher" positions such as sticking to one's belief against meeting opponents half way, the necessity for tough economic medicine in difficult times and the view that governments can do little to create prosperity by themselves. But there was strong disagreement with governments keeping major corporate interests at arm's length and support for compromise in international relations.

A new study offers some explanations. Its authors recategorized the social classes to provide more illumination of political attitudes, finding that the Conservative heartland lies was not so much among AB professional and managerial voters as among the self-employed, petty bourgeoisie (ranging right through from businessmen to manual craftsmen).

But this group is relatively small: 8 per cent of the population. The "solidarity" has expanded to 27 per cent, while the Labour Party's power base, the manual working class, has shrunk. The salary-earners, however, are divided between Conservative and Alliance supporters.

The latter are relatively sympathetic to the general tendencies of recent Conservative policy (showing strong support for trade union legislation and, particularly, denationalization); but much more liberal on social issues such as the death penalty, defence, disarmament and foreign policy without being likely to go as far as supporting Labour prescriptions. There does not appear to be much evidence of a large or growing segment of the electorate which reproduces the complete "package" of Thatcherite attitudes.

Both opposition parties must calculate what sort of Thatcherism benefits them most over the next two years and the directions in which they can most profitably push the Prime Minister. Do they profit most from Thatcher's red in tooth and claw, and if so, which party attracts most defecting voters? Or do they stand to gain more from a Thatcher, bogged down, beleaguered and trimming to the cold winds of public opinion?

In the last Parliament, Thatcher recovered from being the most unpopular Prime Minister since opinion polls began to win the subsequent election. The dramatic rise in support for her and her government during the Falklands campaign was converted into en-

hanced credibility for her domestic policies. She started to be consistently more popular than her party (see graph) and is seen by many voters as the symbol of a determination which preceeeding governments lacked.

Some of the electorate's inclination not to blame the government for rising unemployment can probably be traced to their belief that sacrifices might be worthwhile if better times are ahead. The government chose to fight the last election when the "economic optimism" ratings were rising sharply to levels only matched during the summer of the Falklands campaign. This crucial index is therefore important, and its current trends make ugly reading for the government.

Polls show that faith in any upturn is faltering. In spring 1983, only 20 per cent of Gallup's sample thought the economy would get worse over the following year and nearly 50 per cent thought it would improve.

Later that year the numbers of optimists and pessimists evened out and stayed roughly equal until spring 1984 - since when people have been getting steadily gloomier. The proportion of respondents who say the economy has worsened over the past year has been growing for even longer.

Even successful leaders can outlive their usefulness

Is Thatcher the sort of leader people now want? Even successful leaders can suffer. If there are no longer any dragons for them to slay or if they are felt to have outlived their usefulness. Winston Churchill's record during the war could not save the Conservatives from defeat in 1945.

Does Thatcher's personality bulk sufficiently large to affect the calculations of the next two years significantly? Is there a significant "Thatcher factor" which could either boost her party or drag it down? If for example Tebbit was the leader of a Conservative Party pursuing much the same policies, would its prospects be worse, better, or much the same?

Asked directly, most voters say that issues are more important than personalities - which they would be expected to say, since some will feel it is "better" to decide a vote on issues rather than personality. Subtle questions on the same theme produce the same finding. In 1979, more than one study discovered, most British voters would have preferred the Labour Cabinet in charge of Conservative policies but when offered a more conventional choice, voters went for the party with the preferred stances on issues.

Thatcher's arrival has changed such calculations. People often vote for broad images of parties, making their decision on whether a party is "strong" or "weak", "competent" or "incompetent" and so on. A leader becomes part of the image of the organization he or she leads. Over time, there has been a change



of perceptions about Thatcher, and she has come to occupy a larger proportion of people's picture of her party than do the opposition leaders.

The recent polls on attitudes to Thatcher have found some steep downward trends. Gallup's surveys show that the number of people who agree that she "divides the country" has risen steadily to 71 per cent in January this year from 31 per cent in October, 1977. That number includes a significant proportion of Conservatives. The number agreeing that her ideas are "destructive not constructive" doubled between the 1979 election and the start of this year.

It is the electoral effect, if any, of these movements on overall party ratings which counts in the end. Identifying the strength of the Thatcher factor, its consequences and likely party tactics in response means looking at these sorts of questions.

Is her stance altering the chances that people will blame the government for the rise of unemployment more than they have in the past? In 1983, unemployment had tripled since the previous election, yet the government vote fell by only a tiny fraction. People did not hold the government responsible, they did not think there was a credible alternative policy and although the issue was rated very important, employed people did not consider it direct and decisive importance to them. Is Thatcher's current stance changing any of that?

It has become steadily clearer that the reduction and control of union power was one of the strongest attractions which Thatcher offered to floating voters. She is herself, for many voters, the guarantor that the policy will be made to stick. But is that appeal wearing off because the results people wanted have been achieved, or perhaps because the process has gone too far? Did defeating Arthur Scargill symbolize something different from, and less attractive than, defeating General Galtieri?

Is Thatcher simply becoming more of an ordinary politician? Do even her supporters fear that, however many confrontations she has won in the past, pulling the economy round is beyond her? The graph suggests that her own rating is moving closer and closer to that of her party. Is the Thatcher factor a fading force?

The Times commissioned a special study into these questions from MORI, which conducted eight in-depth discussion groups in four very different constituencies across Britain.

How Britain Votes by Anthony Heath, Roger Jowell and John Curtice, published by Pergamon.

Tomorrow: New evidence from four key constituencies

food and pass your germs on to the kids." For those who know Warsaw, this has the ring of truth.

"After December 13, 1981 - the declaration of martial law," writes Urban, "the use of hands had to be controlled in Poland... a dignity, like any other Communist attending a social gathering, had to stick out his antennae and conduct subtle analysis before approaching the next group of people. He studied people's reactions and taught himself to refrain from shaking hands with some people in order not to be left with his hand suspended in mid-air."

The situation in Poland, he writes, is improving. Solidarity sympathizers and opposition intellectuals still behave in public as if he did not exist, but when unobserved they bow and express the due courtesies. The problem is that fellow members of the Jaruzelski regime are becoming suspicious about Urban: they are asking, are so many members of Solidarity making secret signals to him?

Unfortunately, he concludes, "there is no institution - neither here nor anywhere else - to which one can go to have acquaintanceships invalidated."

Roger Boyes

Realism - or the real Labour?

Whether or not unemployment is the key electoral issue at present, it certainly touches the political nerve most quickly. Thus, the redundancy notice was used as a powerful symbol at the Labour Party conference last week. Fielded up before the cameras by the Nupe delegate from Liverpool, invoked by Neil Kinnock in his withering scorn of Liverpool's Militants, this hated scourge of the working classes became a weapon with which to beat the far left. Whatever the motive, and wherever the real blame might lie, there was a feeling that socialism and redundancy notices just don't mix.

Kinnock was lucky that only one Labour city is in this plight. The number could easily include Sheffield and many parts of London; the air at the conference could then have been thick with redundancy notices brandished in angry fists, and a pitched battle between trade union and constituency delegates.

Both Kinnock and John Cunningsham heaped praise on all the other councils who had "faced reality", made difficult decisions, and set a legal rate and budget. Life was too real to be "playing politics with peoples' jobs and services". How right they are. As one of the councillors involved in two such difficult decisions I am grateful for their approval. But do they realize that very few Labour politicians were involved in those decisions? In practically all the rate-capped councils, the rate was finally set by a combination of Conservatives, Alliance and moderate Labour councillors, voting under a stream of abuse from the gallery and the Labour majority.

Many of the minority of Labour members who gritted their teeth and voted with the hated opposition are distinguished former leaders of their councils, with a history of service to the Labour Party and to local government. They languish now on the back benches, sacked elder statesmen. These people are unlikely to stay in active politics for long: they will either be de-selected or decide they have had enough. Few will have been at Bournemouth last week - certainly not as delegates. They probably enjoyed watching Kinnock's tirade on television, but know that for them it came far too late.

The people who were at Bournemouth and are being hailed as the up-and-coming politicians of the "centre-left" are those who, in their own councils, voted only a few months ago to bring about precisely the situation Liverpool is now in. Nobody mentioned, while David Blunkett was weaving his considerable magic from the platform, that if he had had his way redundancy notices would have gone out long before now to the Sheffield city council workforce. The option he favoured, and voted for to the end, was not to set a rate for his city.

The same is true of the newly moderate Ken Livingstone. Despite his last-minute manoeuvres to defeat a Tory rate, he also supported the "no rate" policy for the GLC. Frances Morrell, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, voted repeatedly to set no precept for education in London. By now, the entire workforce - teachers, caretakers and advisers - would have had to be sacked. She is also now named as one of the promising new Tribune group who have turned their backs on Bennism.

All these people can claim that they were only following party policy - as indeed can Derek Hatton. "Non-compliance" with

Tory legislation was the Labour Party's agreed policy last year and it has not been changed. Neither Kinnock nor Cunningsham publicly challenged it at the time, and neither suggested at the conference what the alternative strategy for next year should be. At present rate-capped councils are still spending up to the hilt, eating up their reserves and special funds, and could face large cuts next year.

The idea of preparing for this contingency is anathema, but if action is not taken now there will probably be a snowstorm of redundancy notices later. And responsible decision-taking will hardly be encouraged by the unanimous conference decision that a future Labour government would compensate retrospectively fined and disqualified councillors.

Electoral arithmetic belies the notion that a new mood of moderation is sweeping the Labour Party. The nearer it thinks it is getting to victory, the more left-wing it will become. Of the 130 or so seats Labour has to win to achieve a working majority, 22 are in London, and it is already clear that in practically all these seats left-wingers will be chosen as candidates: people who would unquestioningly have voted for the NUM resolution and who believe not only in unilateralism but in withdrawal from NATO. In the Hampstead and Highgate constituency, in my own borough, all three front-runners for selection are councillors who recently voted to bankrupt their own borough, and thus go down the Liverpool path.

In many other safe Labour seats in London, the sitting MP is retiring - often under duress. As in the case of John Silkin and Reg Fresson. All these seats are going to members of the hard left. Mildred Gordon won the nomination in Bow and Poplar on a "Kinnock Must Go" speech to the selection conference. To win, Labour must do well in London; if it does well in London, its centre of gravity moves sharply leftward.

Indeed, it has already done so since the 1983 election at Peter Hall. In a television interview during the conference, pointed out. The list of supporters who backed the recent Tribune "relaunch" contains, as well as those coming from the left (Livingstone, Blunkett and Peter Heathfield), many who are reported to be close to Kinnock himself, such as Robin Cook, and numerous respected parliamentary spokesmen (Michael Meacher, Stan Orme, Bryan Gould, Harriet Harman). Yet even this grouping, which is trying to project itself as Kinnock's spiritual home, proclaims itself in favour of withdrawal from NATO. Membership of NATO survives within Labour's creed only because of the trade union block vote.

This is no mere splinter, as Kinnock keeps trying to claim. Some Labour spokesmen attempted to imply that all those boozers and shriekers who interrupted his speech were merely unrepresentative observers of doubtful credentials. On the contrary, most of them are running councils somewhere.

Whether the opinion polls say, the public are not fooled. Last Thursday, at the very time the latest polls were being conducted, there was a county council by-election in a strong Labour ward in Swindon. Labour's tenth most winnable seat. The SDP won with a huge swing - 18 per cent from Labour, 16.5 per cent from the Tories. There must be a message.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

Up the latent Orient!

Starting today, a brand-new football story for boys - Gary of the Gulf! A rip-roaring yarn of how one British lad attempted to get an Arab team into the World Cup Finals.

Gary Threlbut sighed. As the well-paid manager of the national team, Gulf Rovers, you would think he would be happy with his life, but as he looked out at the media circus of Arab footballers that he was trying to mould into a team, he reflected that there was always a fly in the ointment. For a start, there wasn't any ointment. He had tried to explain to Sheikh Hassan, the national football director, that footballers needed a good supply of medications, rubs and lotions, and he thought the Sheikh had understood. When £5,000 worth of Parisian after-shave was delivered, he realized that the Sheikh had not understood.

"OK, Wazir," he shouted. "I want you to take the ball down the wing and cross for Muhammad to score. Let's go!"

Wazir stood still, looking puzzled. So did Muhammad. Gary sighed. Not for the first time, he had forgotten that half his lads didn't speak English. Gary himself hardly spoke Arabic. He turned to his translator, Aziz.

"Aziz, will you tell Wazir to belt down to the corner and..." beamed Aziz. "You are wanting Wazir to get in behind the defence and slot one over to the far post. I will motivate his cowardly soul."

Aziz's English was based on a close study of Grandstand TV programmes about Edward Fitzgerald's poetry. He yelled something at Wazir. Wazir burst into tears.

"Now what's up?" said Gary. "He can't have pulled another hamstring."

"Sir," said Aziz, shocked. "We Muslims do not have hamstring strings. It is a forbidden meat."

"Calf muscle?" suggested Gary. "Calf is fine," beamed Aziz. "I was motivating Wazir by suggesting that if he does not kick the leather

globe into the goal of light, you will have his guts for garters. He is upset, because he does not want his guts to be garterized."

Gary sighed. The trouble was that some of these lads were very good at football indeed, but it proved hard to translate their talent into results. Last weekend Gary found he had played a friendly match against IBM Computer Occasionals, and were beaten 4-1. Gulf were much the better side, but they weren't used to the controlled savagery of 11 computer executives maddened by the lack of alcohol.

"OK," said Gary. "This time ask Wazir very gently if he would be so good as to..."

His words were drowned by the roar of a helicopter coming in to land on the National Stadium. The door of the helicopter opened and the familiar flowing figure of Sheikh Hassan billowed across the pitch towards him.

"Greetings, O Threlbut," said the Sheikh. "How is it with the going mid-season build-up? Do you need any further luxury items?"

The Sheikh's English was based on a mixture of faithful Guardian reading and the Harrods catalogue.

"Well, Sheikh, at the moment we're concentrating on the right-wing thrust provided by Wazir and his link-up with Muhammad in the middle. It's going very well, except that they're not linking up."

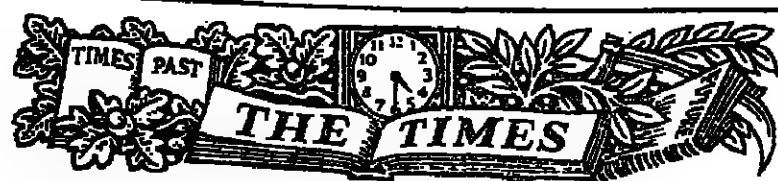
The Sheikh spoke sharply in Arabic. Wazir and Muhammad both burst into tears. The Sheikh strode back to his helicopter and vanished in a temporary sandstorm.

"What the Sheikh is saying," translated Aziz, "is that if they do not follow their commands, their hands may well be chopped off."

Gary sighed. If they had their hands chopped off, how could they ever get their fingers in the opposition's eyes? Blimey. Sometimes he wondered if he wouldn't have been better off staying with lowly Chestow Charlies, the Welsh wizards.

(Another adhesive instalment tomorrow. Don't miss it!)

مكثان الكمال



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

UNIONISTS AT BAY

As the two prime ministers converge on the Anglo-Irish summit, where the fruit of this year's negotiation will be unwrapped, the two most powerful pieces on the Irish political board signify dissent: the Ulster unionist parties together for once, and Mr Charles Haughey back in undisputed command of Fianna Fail.

After an ominous silence Mr Haughey declared his position at the weekend. Fianna Fail, he said, cannot accept any agreement that is not in accordance with the basic principle of Irish unity enshrined in the constitution; nor can it accept any interim settlement that guarantees the present status of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom.

The text of any agreement will be too fluid to be impaled on Mr Haughey's horns, and since the precaution will have been taken of signing up Mr John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mr Haughey cannot simply denounce the agreement. The immediate effect of his declared attitude will be, rather, to reinforce unionist alarm. Since it is more likely than not that Mr Haughey will be in office again within two years, his remarks will be read by unionists as notice of the purpose to which he will put the new machinery, namely to undermine the constitutional position of Northern Ireland.

In the remonstrance-cum-offer Mr James Molyneux and Mr Ian Paisley see the Prime Minister on August 28 they said they were fearful for the future of constitutional politics in Northern Ireland should the Republic be accorded "any role in the direction or control of Ulster's affairs". They also invited her to agree that sovereignty "precludes any British-Irish machinery dealing only with Northern Ireland rather than with United Kingdom-Republic of Ireland relations as a whole".

Mrs Thatcher replied by giving them her unqualified assurance that British sovereignty in Northern Ireland will be undiminished. By that she meant first that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom as long as the majority in Northern Ireland so wish; and second that whatever might emerge from discussions with the Irish authorities, "responsibility for the government of Northern Ireland will remain

with United Kingdom ministers accountable to Parliament". She did not comment on the unionist gloss on sovereignty and may be supposed therefore not to entertain it.

Sovereignty is a legal concept defining the source of lawful authority, the seat of ultimate jurisdiction. A consultative role for Dublin ministers, however formal and systematic, would not be an infringement of sovereignty in Northern Ireland, provided it was no more than that. On that point Mrs Thatcher is unquestionably right and Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley wrong. Nor is there anything at all inevitable about consultative machinery developing into a fragmentation of transfer of authority away from the institutions of the United Kingdom.

But sovereignty, and its psychological counterpart allegiance, is also something felt in the political gut. The unionists are acutely aware that an Ulster into the management of whose affairs Dublin had a consultative input would not be the Ulster that has been theirs, even during the period of abeyance since Stormont was wound up in 1972. The main difference would be a more methodical attention to the grievances and sensitivity of nationalists, for it is as a "guarantor" of the minority that Dublin would be permitted to join in the act.

The unionist political leaders see in this a qualitative change so great, and a process of detachment from the United Kingdom so threatening, as to be tantamount to an infringement of sovereignty. They are therefore stretching themselves to rouse Protestant Ulster to another of its grand refusals that have punctuated the past hundred years of Irish history.

As they see it, and are confident the people they represent will see it, Ulster unionists are the all-round losers in the Thatcher-FitzGerald deal (assuming there is one in the shape surmised). They are not to get withdrawal of the Republic's invidious claim on the territory they inhabit; and they are unlikely to get *de jure* recognition of its status within the United Kingdom; for that would be incompatible with articles 2 and 3 of the constitution according to the implication of opinions of the Dublin supreme court when it was called upon to examine the Sunningdale agree-

ment. They are required to suffer practical arrangements in acknowledgement of Dublin's interest in the internal affairs of the province. They are to continue to be frustrated in the enjoyment of majority rights in the administration of the province; for the condition remains that any form of devolved government must be one that is broadly acceptable to both communities. That condition translates in Ulster into a double veto, and the exercise of their veto by the politicians of the minority is very much resented by the politicians of the majority. Finally the improvement in security and civil peace that might flow from an Anglo-Irish accord is likely to be consumed at first in a blaze of republican violence with the probability of loyalist paramilitary counter-violence.

All this may or may not be enough to galvanize Ulster Protestants into the kind of resistance that would either defeat the agreement as Sunningdale was defeated or bring them into open conflict with authority. But it is careless of the Government to open that possibility by allowing so much to be stacked against political unionism.

Earlier in the proceedings the Government was engaged in parallel initiatives: exploring with Dublin the implications of the New Ireland Forum's analysis of the Ulster question - its analysis not its "options", which Mrs Thatcher necessarily but unceremoniously out, out, out; and engaging with the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland in a further quest for acceptable provincial institutions. The second initiative has not kept pace with the first.

It now looks as if the SDLP may get a measure of what it wants in the matter of Dublin's involvement without being held to participate in provincial administration on terms other than the unrealistic basis of executive power sharing. The opportunity of a bargain that would have given unionists something of what they want, and drawn some of the sting from them from the proposed arrangements, has been lost. A high priority for the Government in putting over a new settlement should be to reconstruct that bargain so to give unionists the prospect of full local government at the very least.

GOLD IS GONE: CAN DISCIPLINE RETURN

The post-war international monetary order broke down when President Nixon ended the dollar's convertibility into gold. Can this dark age in currency management be brought to an end? The participants at this week's meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Seoul must be uncomfortably aware that governments and central banks have been unable to find a proper substitute for a gold-backed dollar. The world has not so far been able to make a purely paper currency standard work.

This failure is symptomatic most obviously in the refusal of financial markets to accept that the current low levels of inflation can endure. The American inflation rate is 3½ per cent, but the yield on government bonds is 10½ per cent. The real return of 7 per cent is somewhat more than in other countries, but even in West Germany and Japan the yield on government bonds has commonly exceeded inflation by 5 per cent in the recent past. Savers are telling governments that they do not trust present monetary arrangements; they want the kind of assurance that was provided by the gold-backed dollar in the 1950s and 1960s.

But gold can never return. Its price has been extremely volatile in the past decade and there is no straightforward criterion to decide at what level a link between it and paper money should be re-established. The best hope is to restore, as far as possible, the policy framework

and general principles on which the success of the two immediate post-war decades was founded.

There is a common view that Keynesianism - in the vulgar version that budget deficits are good for you - was the intellectual guide to the post-war achievements in economic policy. Except possibly in Britain, that view is completely mistaken. In West Germany the social market was accompanied by budget surpluses or only modest deficits; it was as late as 1967 before Keynesian notions made an appearance in a law on "economic stabilization and growth". France had budget deficits in the 1950s, but they were due to incompetence, not conscious demand management; economic recovery after Jacques Rueff's reform package of December 1958 was based on scrupulous observance of a balanced budget.

Most important of all, because of the weight of the USA in the world economy, was President Eisenhower's insistence that budget should be kept under tight control. It seems remarkable today, with the USA running a budget deficit amounting to 6 per cent of national income, that in 1959 the prime aim of American economic policy was to run a budget surplus. It seems almost incredible, after a fortnight in which policy-makers have congratulated themselves in driving down the dollar by over 10 per cent against the yen, that this surplus was intended to protect the American gold

reserve and so maintain the dollar's international value.

The abandonment of old and tried rules of fiscal discipline is the main reason for the currency troubles of the post-1971 period. It is also the most powerful explanation for the high real interest rates which now prevail almost universally. These high real interest rates are poisoning the world economy. They are aggravating the burden of debt for both public and private borrowers, and limiting the traditional option available to governments when faced by high unemployment.

That option was, of course, to spend more money, widen the budget deficit and stimulate demand. Unfortunately, when real interest rates are above the rate of economic growth, budget deficits are inadvisable because of the danger that interest payments on government debt will rise explosively as a proportion of national income. The larger are budget deficits, the weaker is financial confidence; weaker financial confidence means higher real interest rates; and with higher real interest rates, the more it will be that budget deficits generate intolerable debt servicing burdens.

We need to return to fiscal control at least as rigorous as in the 1950s and 1960s. Without a move in this direction, the instability and turmoil of the purely paper standard since 1971 will persist or worsen.

Teaching of Chinese

From the President of the European Association of Chinese Studies

Mr Hurd's letter (September 25) deserves careful consideration within the context of Chinese studies both in the United Kingdom and the Continent, where proportionately more teenagers express an enthusiasm for the subject than their British colleagues.

1. Since 1961 Chinese has been taught in the United Kingdom at a handful of schools, polytechnics and universities. However no principles have been formulated to determine whether these courses are designed for vocational training, a degree in the humanities or as an adjunct to the social sciences.

2. In addition insufficient thought has been given to the appropriate place of elementary language training

in a syllabus for schools and universities. While the value of a Chinese language course which stops at O level may be open to question, it can be maintained with equal force that intensive language teaching has no place within an honours degree. The advantages of establishing an intensive course, to be taken by students at the intermediate stage between schools and universities and to serve the needs of the public services and business, have long been recognised. Proposals to do so have foundered, usually owing to indecision or failure to co-operate.

3. While efforts have been made to stimulate an interest in British schools, there remains the compelling need to use the slender teaching resources that are available as effectively as possible. Regrettably, however, it seems that this objective is not being achieved and that current needs are not being met; few

centres of Chinese studies, if any, would claim that they can cover all the complex needs of the subject adequately.

4. All credit is due to those pioneers who introduced Chinese language at schools some twenty years ago. However, mature reflection suggests that a stronger case can be made for integrating courses in East Asian history and culture in existing syllabuses than for establishing teaching in Chinese language alone.

Let us hope that Mr Hurd's plea for a review of Chinese teaching will not fall on deaf ears. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL LOEWE, President, European Association of Chinese Studies, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, September 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dublin's role in Northern Ireland

From Mr John D. Taylor, MP for Strangford and MEP for Northern Ireland (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, As the present Anglo-Irish talks proceed to a conclusion there is increasing anxiety throughout Northern Ireland. Whilst the Dublin Government regularly consults with the Irish minority in Northern Ireland on the subject matter of these talks the British majority in Northern Ireland is kept in total ignorance by the United Kingdom Government.

The Prime Minister has said that there are no more about improved co-operation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, other reports state that it is not simply co-operation but a form of involvement of the Republic in the internal administration of Northern Ireland which is being negotiated.

The latter would be firmly rejected by the people of Northern Ireland and I hope that the Government will not make the same mistake that it made at Sunningdale in 1973 when London and Dublin reached an agreement without the consent of the Ulster people, i.e., it had no democratic basis.

More recently, when Parliament proposed constitutional changes in Scotland and Wales it naturally invited consent from the electorate in both countries. Likewise, if Parliament now proposes any foreign involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland - either in its administration or its judiciary - then it is duty-bound to seek the consent of the people of Northern Ireland.

To fail to do so will lead to a devaluation of elected representatives and a withdrawal of consent by the people of Ulster to these new initiatives. There could be a repeat of all courts in Ulster or civil disobedience on a massive scale.

Let us avoid an unpleasant confrontation between the Government and one million Ulstermen by ensuring that no Dublin/London agreement will be imposed without the democratic consent of the people directly involved.

Yours faithfully, JOHN D. TAYLOR, House of Commons, October 2.

Liverpool's condition

From Mr D. R. Bramwell

Sir, Perhaps inadvertently, the Reverend Peter Brain (October 3) has highlighted the fundamental problem of Liverpool when he writes

partly because it has a century-old dependence on the public sector and partly because it is the least English of all the cities, Liverpool will not "go gentle into that good night".

His solution is predictable: the English should pay more damage to keep this derelict monstrosity in existence, under threat of incessant rioting. Monies levied by the nation state upon men of imprisonment should be used for better purposes than this.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. BRAMWELL, 44 Rawlinson Road, Oxford, October 3.

Calling the score

From Mr Tiggly Thomas

Sir, May we ever hope to see an end to the tendency to attribute the authorship of every linguistic or public school sentiment to Kipling? When Mr Kinnoch declared at the Bournemouth conference that his party did not want to consist of those who believed it matters "not that you won or lost but how you played the game" he added "as Rudyard Kipling says".

Kipling could hardly have meant heights of juvenility but I doubt if he was capable of anything as coy as "For when the One Great Scorer comes To write against your name He marks - not that you won or lost - But how you played the game which are by an American, Grantland Rice."

No doubt your paper would have corrected this error but felt there were more important issues to cover.

I remain, yours, etc, TIGGLY THOMAS, 83 Highbury Hill, N5, October 2.

Solicitors' role

From Mr Charles Buckley

Sir, The review of the legal year, 1984/85, delivered by the Master of the Rolls on October 2 (Law Report, October 3) will send as was no doubt intended, a shudder down the spine of all solicitors having the conduct and responsibility of advising clients in relation to appeals, particularly to the Court of Appeal, Civil Division.

An appeal to the Court of Appeal is a right basic to our legal system and to that of all common law jurisdictions, not a privilege. With the greatest respect to the Master of the Rolls, who is a brilliant lawyer as well as being an outstanding administrator, statistics are inappropriate when describing the work of his division.

I do not believe that he either intended to give offence to instructing solicitors or to usurp their duty, which is first second and third to their clients, when he states, as he is reported as having done, that it was for those advisers and particularly counsel, to satisfy themselves fully before advising that it was reasonable for an appeal to be brought.

In the case of private clients, it is for that client and his solicitor to make the decision. It is not for counsel, since counsel act, as they must do, on instructions from their

Credibility of investment bank

From The Chairman of the West Yorkshire Enterprise Board

Sir, Sir Gordon White's letter (September 25) with its violent denunciation of the proposed National Investment Bank should not be allowed to attach the credibility of his "authority" to arguments that might be described as disguised special pleading for his own vested interest.

Sir Gordon plays the politician's old trick of setting up a dummy target to knock down. The proposals do not remotely involve the sequestration of any money or assets. They do not call for the repatriation of all but five per cent of the nation's foreign investment portfolio. There are no sinister implications for pensioners whose pension funds would be guaranteed the normal rate of return on gilt edged securities.

Finally, Sir Gordon condemns the whole concept as being intended to finance "crackpot schemes designed to create false and temporary employment in the pursuit of votes". Surely he should do others the courtesy of crediting them with a genuine concern to try to repair the ravages of unemployment that are due in part to the application of the business principles of devil-take-the-hindmost that he represents.

Sir Gordon invites the reader to applaud the record of his own financial conglomerate. Certainly the growth rate and profit to turnover figures of Hanson Trust that he quotes are impressive. The City might also ponder one of the fall-out consequences of this meteoric progress.

The West Yorkshire Enterprise Board is now helping to finance the steady growth of a successful manufacturing business employing 200 people that was started for either 1983 or 1984 by Hanson Trust in 1983 because it was not then earning the group's required real rate of return on capital employed of 26 per cent per annum nominal - 20 per cent real.

Heart of the matter

From Professor M. A. Crawford

Sir, James Le Fanu should not try to pull the wool over the eyes of an unsuspecting public (feature, October 1). His statement that Dr Keys is the founder "of the dairy food-heart disease hypothesis" is a journalistic construction by Le Fanu to draw in a sympathetic audience to his cause. There is no such hypothesis.

Dr Keys' seven-country study illustrated a strong relationship between saturated fats, blood cholesterol levels and death from heart disease. Saturated fats do occur in dairy foods, but they also occur in hard margarines, cooking fats, biscuits, pies, cookies, chocolates, certain types of cakes, pastries and TV dinners made with such fats, to say nothing of our "fastfood" which produces more carcasses than protein. You can also make saturated fats in your own body from sugars and carbohydrates if you eat more than you need for energy.

Le Fanu also talks about the "precipitous fall" in heart disease in the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Finland and Japan. Japan never had a high death rate. Finland has an intensive prevention programme; the USA and Canada enjoyed a high level of awareness encouraged by best selling popular books on "polysaturates" and "heart attack" as early as 1963.

I have just returned from New Zealand where their Ministry of

Assisted places scheme

From Mr David J. Woodhead

Sir, Your leader, "No begging bowl here" (September 26), says that the Government "has concentrated on improving State-provided education for the many."

No one in independent education, I hope, doubts that that must be the Government's first duty. But your strictures on the RMC (Headmaster's Conference) chairman for proposing an extension of the assisted places scheme are unfounded.

As your own report (September 23) showed, RMC schools are buoyant. They do not need a begging bowl or the alms to fill it. And the assisted places scheme is entirely consistent with their independent status because they are not dependent

solicitors and clients. In the case of a legally aided client, the duty to him is collateral with that to the Legal Aid Fund.

I would respectfully contend that in a case of doubt the duty of any solicitor would always be, and must be, to resolve the doubt in favour of an appeal being prosecuted where one of the competing considerations was fear of criticism and incurring the wrath of the Master of the Rolls, the head of our profession.

At a time when authoritarian attack on the independence of our profession is at a high point and the Lord Chancellor's department is engaged in a cost-cutting exercise so profound that it is fettering the ability of solicitors properly to defend and represent their clients throughout the United Kingdom, the implied threat to solicitors who do not conform to the statistical objectives of the Master of the Rolls is to be regretted.

As Lord Justice Buckley once said, "Hasty justice is bad justice". He was speaking in a case on appeal from the President of the Industrial Relations Court in 1972.

Yours sincerely, CHARLES BUCKLEY, c/o 14 Lloyd Street, Manchester, October 3.

If United Kingdom Limited were to operate on the basis that all businesses earning less than that rate of return should be closed down and their capital redeployed there would not be a great deal of the country's industry or commerce left to argue about.

Unfashionable manufacturing industry in Yorkshire and elsewhere in the UK faces:

1. A City that does not consider risk investments of under £250,000 to be worth the bother.
2. Investment managers who say "the money is there if the return is adequate" without mentioning that their target rate of return from a risk proposition is 35 per cent per annum compounded with an "exit" in five years maximum.
3. Real interest rates of more than five per cent - mainly designed to protect an unreal value of the pound against European currencies.
4. A withdrawal of investment tax allowances from next April that will reduce industrial investment and thus threaten the very existence of many plant and equipment manufacturers.
5. A recent reduction in the volume of government regional aid available to industry generally whose effects have yet to be felt.

These handicaps are quite enough without the creation of a climate of opinion mindlessly opposed to any interventionist strategy designed to increase industrial investment as one of the bases for employment growth.

What is needed is calm and rational discussion of these issues in a genuine search for feasible solutions to one of the most intractable economic problems facing this country.

Yours faithfully, JOHN GUNNELL, Chairman, West Yorkshire Enterprise Board Limited, 100, Queen Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, September 27.

Agriculture openly advise that "fat is not for sale" and offer advice to farmers how to breed lean animals and make money.

In Australia, their Heart Foundation has been active for years in public education and parallel changes in food consumption and production, exercise and a reduction in smoking have followed.

Le Fanu tells the public only about death just when you retire but not about the fact that one in four men will have a heart attack or stroke before they reach the age of 65 years. Nor does he tell the public that the rise in the two most prominent risk indicators, blood cholesterol and blood pressure, has been identified in children from high-risk populations already at seven years of age. Young people killed in accidents or war have been found in their late teens to already have the serious arterial disease which, later in life, leads to death from heart attack or stroke.

There is little doubt that corrective action needs to start from the earliest ages. There is also a high degree of confidence in the prediction that correction of the most obvious distortions of our food chain over the last three centuries would lead to a reduction in blood cholesterol levels, blood pressure, premature heart disease and stroke. The evidence in the cardiovascular field that prevention is better than cure, is overwhelming.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL CRAWFORD, 36 Regent's Park Road, NW1, October 1.

Links with Rome

From Prebendary Michael Seward

Sir, Your correspondent, Bishop Moorman, says (September 27) that no one can today believe that "Works done before the grace of Christ... are not pleasing to God" and "have the nature of sin" (Article 13).

He is wrong. I do. Moreover, the matter continues to have ecumenical consequences (it was recently discussed at a London meeting organized by ARCIC's Anglican chairman, the Bishop of Kensington, who himself raised it).

What is at stake? Certainly the language of Article 13 is in considerable need of translation. The issue which it enshrines nevertheless remains crucial. Suppose two men jump into a river and each saves another from drowning a few yards apart. Identical acts? Yes.

Let us, however, suppose that one rescuer is a Christian and one not. Identical acts? Yes. But suppose one rescuer tries to use his good act as a means of meritorious self-justification before God. By so doing he, wittingly or unwittingly, rejects the grace of God which, according to the New Testament, cannot be earned but only received as a gift. He has spoiled his good act by attempting to use it for a selfish purpose and that is sinful.

The same point was made by Jesus who told the story which we quaintly call "the publican and the Pharisee". The latter thought his piety and morality were the grounds on which God would accept him. The former asked for forgiveness, knowing himself to be a sinner. Jesus rejected the Pharisee but accepted the publican.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 7 1980

The airship R101 crashed at Allon, near Beaune, France, at 02.50 hours on October 5, 1930, and 47 of the 54 people on board perished. The disaster spelled the end of airship development in Britain and the sister ship R100 was scrapped. The report of the inquiry stated (para 107) "It is clear that if those responsible had been entirely free to choose the time and weather... the R101 would not have started when she did... The programmes of trials drawn up for her by her Captain had never been carried through..."

THE R101

BEFORE THE CRASH (FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT) BEAUVAIS, OCT. 6

According to the clearest accounts I have heard from any of the survivors, the ship was flying normally - my informant did not know at what height - when her nose dropped until she was at an angle not much less than 45deg. This is nothing very unusual in an airship when there are vertical air currents about, and it did not alarm the crew. The five engines were all running, as cruising speed when this happened. In a few moments the ship was back on an even keel. Now, if her level flight was restored by the use of the elevators on her tail, the effect would be not so much to raise her head as to bring down her tail to the level of her head. The ship was over 700ft long. If she really dipped to 45deg - that is, if it was her nose that fell and not her tail that rose - then her nose fell 300ft, and when she flattened out she had lost about that much height. And if she had previously been flying at 500ft - just below the clouds - she was now very near the ground. The space beneath her was less than one-third of her length.

The next manoeuvre would be to raise her head, still keeping level. It is slightly, trimming the ship up by the head, and letting her climb. But before this could be done the ship, either as the result of structural failure - a point on which the experts refuse to be definite at present - or because of a second downward gust, again dipped by the nose. This time all the engines were going to slow. As soon as they heard the rump the crew knew there was something wrong. Before the order could be obeyed the crash came.

When the ship touched the ground the port midship engine was allowed, the starboard midship engine was not. It is uncertain whether the forward engines were reversed, but there was probably no time to do this. The ship hit the ground almost at cruising speed - say 50 knots. Her forward half was completely wrecked at once. The controls were smashed, the planes and the rump were thrown into the air. It is probable that some of the crew, Major Scott is thought to have been one, but none of them has been identified. No deduction has yet been drawn from the ship's instruments, if any are left reasonably intact.

The survivors know nothing of any details with the exception of the formation of the ground about Beaune is peculiar. Just before she crashed R101 had crossed a wide valley like a saucer, and it was the rim of the saucer that she hit. It was pitch dark and raining. No trustworthy observer on the ground, as far as I know, has seen the ship when it crashed, or heard her without seeing her. The conditions were favourable to vertical air currents. A strong gusty wind blew over the hills, and the cloud formation consisted of masses of cumulus, under which upcurrents normally exist. These are compensated by downward currents elsewhere. The ship was about 500ft above the ground. The cloud-celling was at 500ft or 600ft, and, as the clouds were very thick, the ship was obliged to find her way below them. At the place where she struck there may have been a head wind, caused by the wind over the ridge. She flew on the slope of a small hill at the top of the slope of a much bigger hill. The place has a reputation for treacherous air conditions. Several aeroplanes have crashed about there at various times.

The position of the men's bodies in the wreck did not suggest that they had more than a moment's warning of danger. They had not moved further from their sleeping quarters and posts of duty than they might have done after the ship had struck. The fire overcame them. In the crew's quarters they were found huddled together near the gangway. Those in the cabins and in the control car were found entangled in the wreckage of that part of the ship. They were caught unaware by the crash and before they could make for safety...

Ask the average Englishman to tell you of what, guess he bases his hope of eternity and he will tell you (if the matter interests him) that it is because "he has done his best". He has, in short, a "merit-based" view of forgiveness, just like the Pharisee in the parable.

Any attempt at understanding Article 13 must recognize that it was an attack on a "merit-based" medieval ecology rather than an abstract statement about goodness in a vacuum. The subject is therefore still of great pastoral significance today and may well be of continuing concern in discussions with the Roman Catholic Church. Since it lies at the heart of the Christian theology of grace and forgiveness I regard it as an absolutely vital point.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SAWARD, Ealing Vicarage, 11 Church Place, W5.

Magic roundabout

From Mr Peter Young

Sir, A letter posted in Sevenoaks, in the next county, has been routed to me via Blairgowrie, Perthshire, a round distance of over 800 miles against just over 20 direct. This is not an isolated incident. Earlier this year, I had post-coded mail from Ascot, Berkshire, also routed via Perthshire.

In its 350th year the Post Office perhaps has an explanation for this advance on going to Birmingham by way of Beaconsfield. Yours faithfully, PETER YOUNG, 21 Kettle Close, Pound Hill, Crawley, Sussex.

THE ARTS

PUBLISHING

Why the Booker Prize is bad news for books

The art of fiction – and fiction is an art – is thriving in this country.

Among the more invigorating novels published so far this year have been *Sione's Virgin* by Barry Unsworth, *Black Robe* by Brian Moore, *Crusoe's Daughter* by Jane Gardam, *Hawthorne* by Peter Ackroyd, *Foreign Land* by Jonathan Raban, *Hiroshima Joe* by Martin Booth, *Still Life* by A. S. Byatt, *A Maggot* by John Fowles, *Wales' Work* by Robert Walser, *Blood Libels* by Clive Sinclair and *Unexplained Laughter* by Alice Thomas Ellis.

The one distinction these 11 books have in common, apart from their excellence, is that none of them has been chosen by the motley crew of judges to appear on the shortlist for the 1985 Booker McConnell prize for fiction.

In passing, it might be noted that, in his review of *A Maggot*, Anthony Burgess wrote: "It is far too good to be a candidate for the Booker Prize". Of the above listed novels, *A Maggot* alone might have been a

choice for the judges, at least theoretically. But Mr Fowles, as Graham Greene has done in the past, requested his publisher not to submit the book.

This was less, presumably, because Mr Fowles thought he might fail to make the shortlist than that, being an honourable man who cares about the art of fiction, he believed younger, less well known novelists should have a chance.

In place of Mr Fowles we have the latest books by two other senior novelists, Iris Murdoch and Doris Lessing, respectively entitled *The Good Apprentice* and *The Good Terrorist*. Miss Murdoch has won the prize before, in 1978, and therefore surely should have been

ineligible. Presumably Mrs Lessing will "win", with one of her less strong novels. It will be said that it is her distinguished literary career that is being honoured, not of course her latest, rather polemical book.

The almost statutory Indian novel this year yields to two from Australasia, the well-known unreadable *Ilywhacker* by Peter Carey and the part-Maori Ken Hume's *The Bone People*. Jan Morris's book gives hope to journalists and non-fiction authors: you too can write a novel. J. L. Carr's *The Battle of Pollock Cross* was sent for review by the editor of a leading literary monthly to one of the country's most experienced and perspicacious assessors of contemporary fiction. He sent the book

back, sans review, saying please could he have a serious novel to deal with.

The list, in short, is an outrage. Whichever novel carries off the £15,000 prize before the television cameras on October 31 will sell vast numbers of copies. Whichever novel wins, what is becoming the annual rusty Booker McConnell nail will be hammered deeper into the coffin of fiction. Because, in recent years, the publicity attending the Booker Prize has been so considerable many – perhaps most – of those who buy the winning book may buy only the one novel in hardback each year. They will assume, not unreasonably, that it is the best of contemporary fiction. It may well be the last hardback novel they buy.

None of this is the fault of the judges. It is the fault of the writers: on this year's shortlist Mr Carr's last novel, *A Month in the Country*, for instance, was a little beauty. Under the Net and *The Golden Notebook* are among the glories of the English novel since the Second World War.

It is not even the fault of the judges. It is the fault of the committee that selects them, the feeling that the judges have to be "representative". The chairman each year is expected to be a public figure. This year it is Norman St John Stevas, who probably enjoys Trollope but few more recent novelists. There has always been the statutory literary editor: this year it is J. W. Lambert, formerly of *The*

Sunday Times. Then there is the conservative novelist and reviewer Nina Bayden. The actress Joanna Lumley represents showbiz. Finally there is Marina Warner who, as a reviewer, currently appraising fiction, has in recent weeks been meting out blame and praise to Booker aspirants in *The Sunday Times*.

Craziest of all, because of Booker fever publishers now bring out their leading novels of the year all within a few weeks in the late summer. Thus many of them lose out in terms of review coverage, and no doubt – though this would be hard to prove – those that fail to make the Booker shortlist sell fewer copies than would be the case were there no Booker shortlist. The English novel

is too fundamental, too essential, for this Russian roulette to rule.

Last year's winner, Anita Brookner, continues when interviewed to say that she regards the writing of fiction, of novels, as relaxation, something to do in the long vac – giving the impression that it is a slightly embarrassing, eccentric English vice or hobby. That is really encouraging to professional novelists who take a year or more to produce a book.

Booker McConnell's intent in establishing the prize was a glorious gesture. That the razzmatazz attending the prize each year (come back Selina Scott; nothing is forgiven) is rapidly turning the art of the novel as practised today into a laughing-stock is no way their fault. Nevertheless, they should withdraw from the lists of literary pot-hunting as soon as they decently can, before those book-trade publicists and marketing people who value "The Book" above particular books can do irreparable harm.

E. J. Craddock

Theatre

Reclamation of an arid form

True Dare Kiss
Cottesloe

In its subject-matter and sprawling layout, the second piece in the National Theatre Studio season seems a throwback to the "state of England" plays that held grim sway over fringe production in the 1970s.

Here we are in darkest Manchester: a social scrap-heap, infested with petty crime and loutish domineering males, with factories collapsing like lines of dominoes and job-applications a theme for gallows-humour. And, to sharpen up the picture, here are four girls trying to fight their way out of the dead end.

If, however, this were a play in the 1970s manner, the careers of Phil, Alice, Nita and Beth would only go to clinch the social diagnosis. As the playwright Debbie Horsfield tells their story, Manchester simply supplies the given circumstances for them to lead their own lives; and the system is less important than the people inside it. The result is funny, biting intelligent, full of raw, vital experience, and altogether a fertile reclamation of an arid form.

If there is any single argument that runs through the piece it is that women's worst enemy is not the dole queue but the retreat into marriage. In the opening scene we see the blithely young Alice (Sally Jane Jackson) being led to that old block.

She is radiant over the sack

Marvellously fanatical:
Lesley Sharp

of presents and her honeymoon with Kevin; but, to her friends, it is a funeral. And, once the bridal gear has been stowed away, she finds that life consists of being enslaved to her husband's megalomania, forced to get out of the house when he has a business to discuss, and obliged to go around in shades to conceal her black eyes.

Meanwhile, the elegant Nita has charmed a loan from the bank to set up a hairdressing salon. Phil has escaped to Bristol for an *Educating Rita* career, and Beth – marvellously played by Lesley Sharp – has gone into black leather and zips, giving herself to fanatical support of Manchester United.

This is not so much a feminist play as a study of four girls who look after each other, no matter how much they fight and upstage one another. Nita, as a shop-owner, is in the best position to help; and she persuades the docile Alice to leave home and employ her as an assistant. After the horrendous domestic scenes, where Kevin is joined by the homicidal Joey (Stephen Fretcher), you would imagine that a lasting post-marital vendetta. But no: when they meet accidentally in the street, it is as tenderly as in the opening scene.

Alice's departure is the main event of the play; and, coming at half-time, the rest could have been an anti-climax. So far as events are concerned (entry for a hairdressing competition) there is nothing of matching interest. But Nita's adventures in *nouveau riche* Manchester, as personified in an antique-dealer lover with a brushed-nylon tiger for love-nest, and who engages Beth as his anarchic assistant, keep the piece vigorously alive. John Burgess's production introduces an outstanding writing talent, and a fine company.

Irving Wardle

The Winter's Tale
Nuffield, Lancaster

The understated performance is, presumably, a rare bird in the theatrical zoo. Few venues have the necessary space and few plays can survive the inevitable dislocation. Jonathan Petherbridge's production makes economical use of this university theatre's generous square footage while doing Shakespeare's text some minor disservices in the process.

After the short scene of historical updating outside the foyer, the oblique confrontation between the kings of Sicily and Bohemia takes place in a ballroom carpeted with artificial grass and beneath chandeliers which invite an unexpected reading of Leontes's outburst about his wife's indignations, "Too hot! Too hot!". The period is Edwardian – dinner suits, white gloves, patent leather pumps – and the playing is appropriately suited. John Fleming makes an accountably dramatic Polixenes and Hilary Cronin a mildly flirtatious Hermione, but Robert French has not the emotional power to persuade us of Leontes's jealousy.

At this point the audience is split into two groups which necessitates showing some of the shorter scenes out of order. It does not really matter. The narrative terms that Camillo warns Polixenes of the plot against his life after the unjust incarceration of the faithful Hermione, but it is a distraction to hear that scene taking place next door while we are concentrating on the cosy domestic

exchanges in a conservatory replete with chocolate-box bower. The management of this and other inherent problems will doubtless improve over the next three weeks.

The most successful setting, and the happiest part of the production, is the long pastoral sequence of Act IV in a carpeted, steeply-raised pit where Andy Whitfield's Autolycus gambols to great effect and leads the singing of his own music. The impact of many scenes inevitably depends on where you happen to be standing at any given time: the penultimate, far-fetched denouement gains from finding yourself in an antechamber and having a jokey précis relayed in the tones of an old-fashioned radio commentator.

Martin Cropper

Living With Your
Enemies

Soho Poly

Preparing to entertain two of her grown-up children, expected for the funeral of her mother, a 64-year-old woman finds an intruder in the sitting room of her humble Battersea house. It emerges that he is a print-worker from Leeds, where her eldest son Bart has recently caused ructions with the unions for writing an anti-working-class article. Both Bart and his sister Joanne – an agitprop actress and a veteran of the bin – are eager for a stake in their grandmother's house. After the predictable verbal clash

between Bart and the print-worker, however, it is the three children who are shown the door.

Interleaved between the scenes of this present-day narrative are flashbacks to 1948 which establish the woman's ambivalence towards her mother. Left a widow with four young mouths to feed, she had a fifth baby by an idealistic former art student trying to paint his way out of poverty while organizing a strike of catering workers in (naturally) Leeds. Her father-in-law, until now handsomely supportive, cut her off and the baby had to be adopted. Is the intruder – himself adopted and (we cannot but notice) played by the same actor as her sometime lover – this missing son?

Tony Caza's play is amiable bunk, its pronouncements on class and money are pretty thin and its attempted relation of family tensions to social antagonism has, I think, been done before.

What makes Sue Dunderdale's production worth a detour is the all-round excellence of her company: Carmel McSharry as the put-upon but spirited pensioner; Sadie Shimmin doubling as her younger self and as the ingrate Joanne; Jeff Rawle as the impassioned print-worker and his putative father; Ian Thompson as the smooth, father-in-law and the dyspeptic Bart; Dorothy Vernon as the embittered grandmother whose coffin lies in the corner of the intimate set throughout. A production of this quality deserves a bigger audience.

Martin Cropper

Television
Missing
links

emphasized by that horrible word which Whicker himself used on more than one occasion, "Bris".

He spoke to (or perhaps, in deference to the mid-Atlantic theme, one ought to write "spoke with") an editor of *Vogue*, a priest, an industrialist and a hairdresser who reflected upon the connection between masturbation and hair. They were all very pleasant, and had taken up with both hands the opportunities which New York offered – but there was still a small suspicion that something, somewhere, was missing.

Thunder Rock represented almost too lavishly a *Theatre Night* (BBC 2) – there can be nothing more dramatic than a lighthouse populated by ghosts. And, since it was in part melodrama, it transferred more easily to the small screen than it would to a contemporary West

End theatre: one did get the impression, however, that nothing much had been done to it since its first production in 1940. The acting and the direction were of a solidly (and worthily) conventional type but, since the writing had not entirely withstood the ravages of time, it might have been worth exploring the possibilities of oddness or extravagance in the production. If Charles Dance can adopt an American accent, anything is possible.

Apparently a great deal of money has been spent on *The Tripods* (BBC 1), but no cheque-book on earth (or elsewhere) could exorcise the spirit of *Dr Who* which curls along the expensive machinery and creeps across the floor of the BBC studios in which this science-fiction phantasmagoria is filmed: the tripods look like milk-shake makers demented with ambition, and the fabulous City of Gold resembles Birmingham on a Sunday afternoon. Nevertheless it is perfect for adult viewers, although the teenage audience may find it a little jejune.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

ECO/Uchida
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Mitsuko Uchida's is Mozart in pen-and-ink wash. One does not expect from her the ample modulations of colour that enable other pianists to let the piano sing; she does not sing at all. Even in the most intimate slow music she is disinclined to cosset away all the chime; there remains almost always something glassy and percussive in her sound, and at times the attack would be violent were it not that all its energy is fused into a single moment. It becomes an attack of nerves. Or more fancifully one might hear, as in the first movement of the D minor Concerto at Saturday night's concert, the sound repeated of the nib scratching a note suddenly into the paper.

And perhaps one is encouraged to think in such terms when what Miss Uchida substitutes for cantabile is an intense understanding of how the music

is made: the exact point at which to mark a climax, the way a phrase rises towards its answer, the precise function of just one note in a theme. She does not sing the music; she exists in it. And, if one could not hear, one could see her arms and shoulders are charged up by a phrase of strong upbeat character. This first instalment in her journey through the Mozart concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra, bringing this time the G major, K.453, as well as the D minor, was as fiercely illuminating and searching an occasion as every-one anticipated.

It could possibly have been even more so if Miss Uchida had been able to communicate her conviction and infinitely fine grace to the orchestra, who stayed somewhat outside the performances. The recordings she is making, with Jeffrey Tate as conductor, may therefore starve and challenge the more, which is quite some thought.

Paul Griffiths

Ameling/Meer
Wigmore Hall

For her second Wigmore recital last week, devoted to songs from Hugo Wolf's *Spanisches Liederbuch*, Ely Ameling teamed up with another Dutch singer, the baritone Ruud van der Meer. It was an evening when traditional Dutch musical values – of tonal refinement, good taste and a certain sobriety in expressive means – did seem to overshadow any discernible Spanish temperament.

This triumph of vocal technique over gut feeling was perhaps no bad thing in songs like "Bedeck mich mit Blumen" which place the singer's technique under the most severe pressure. Miss Ameling negotiated its tricky, high opening effortlessly. Cool and cautious initially, she opened out with a delicious upward portamento on "Liebe", and that prepared the listener for her more prolonged intensification of tone at the song's climax.

She also characterized the nervous young lady of "Geb, Geliebter", hurrying her lover out after the night's illicit lovemaking, with an appropriately breathless urgency, made the more startling because this

song followed straight after she had tenderly serenaded Death like a lover in "Komm, o Tod". Moreover, her skill at throwing unexpected words into prominence with a sudden gush of sound is unsurpassed.

One still feels with this singer, however, that everything is a little too prepared, and that the depiction of the most extreme emotions, like those of the wretched penitent in "Möhlvoll komm ich", will be beyond her until she is prepared to take more risks.

Van der Meer is much the same sort of well-mannered artist, though (on this occasion at least) not as secure as Ameling in his tuning of Wolf's more challenging chromaticisms. One could admire his instinct for rubato and graceful legato when unfolding the flowery metaphor of "Wenn du zu den Blumen", and he made a solid first of that tumultuous auction song "Da nur Leid", aided by the excellent Rudolf Jansen's heroic work at the keyboard. But "Blindes Schauen" calls for a bigger, tougher sort of delivery, and his performance of "Und schliefst du" did not convey the impetuosity of a man who would lead his girl barefoot through a torrent.

Richard Morrison



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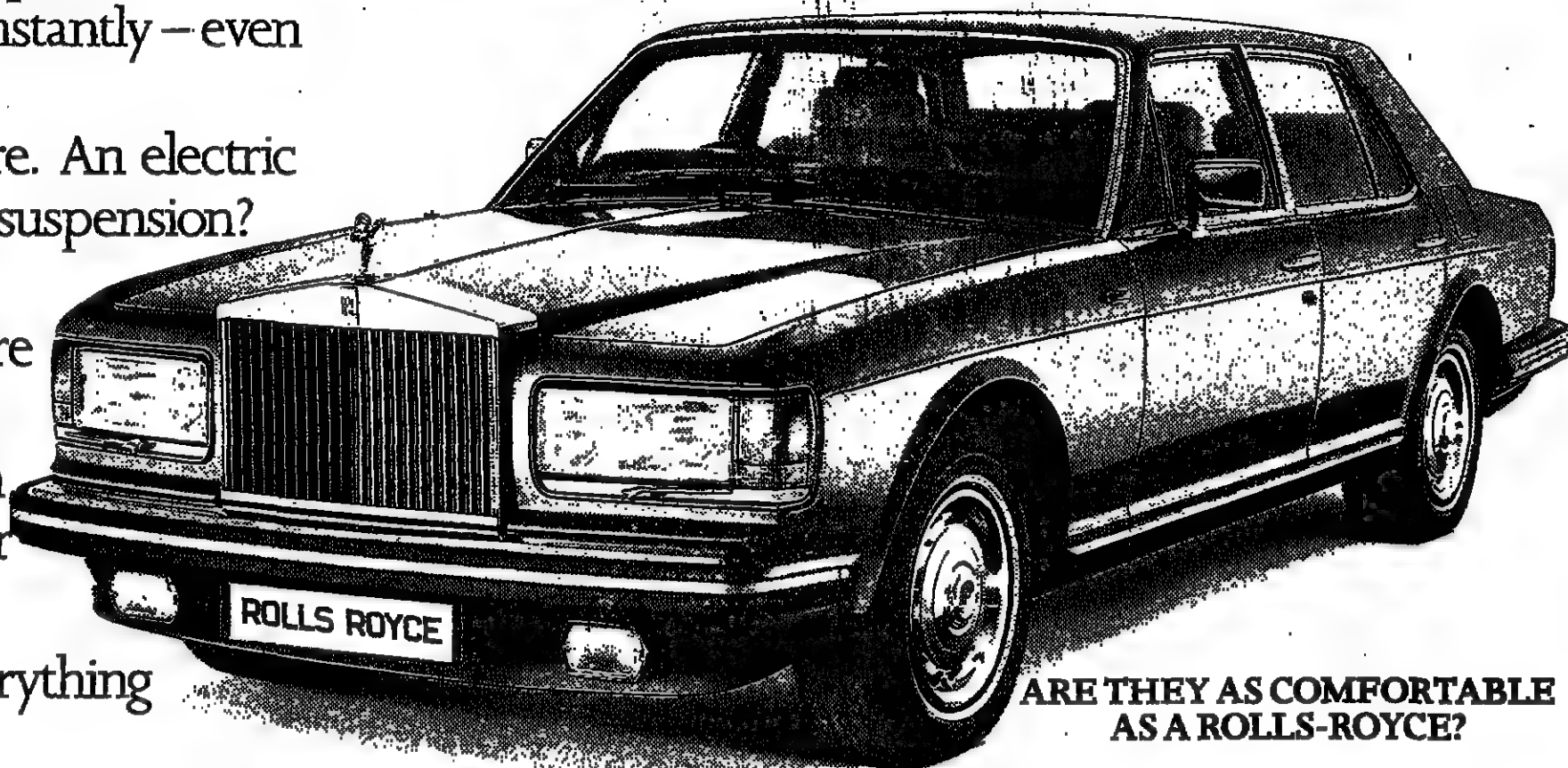
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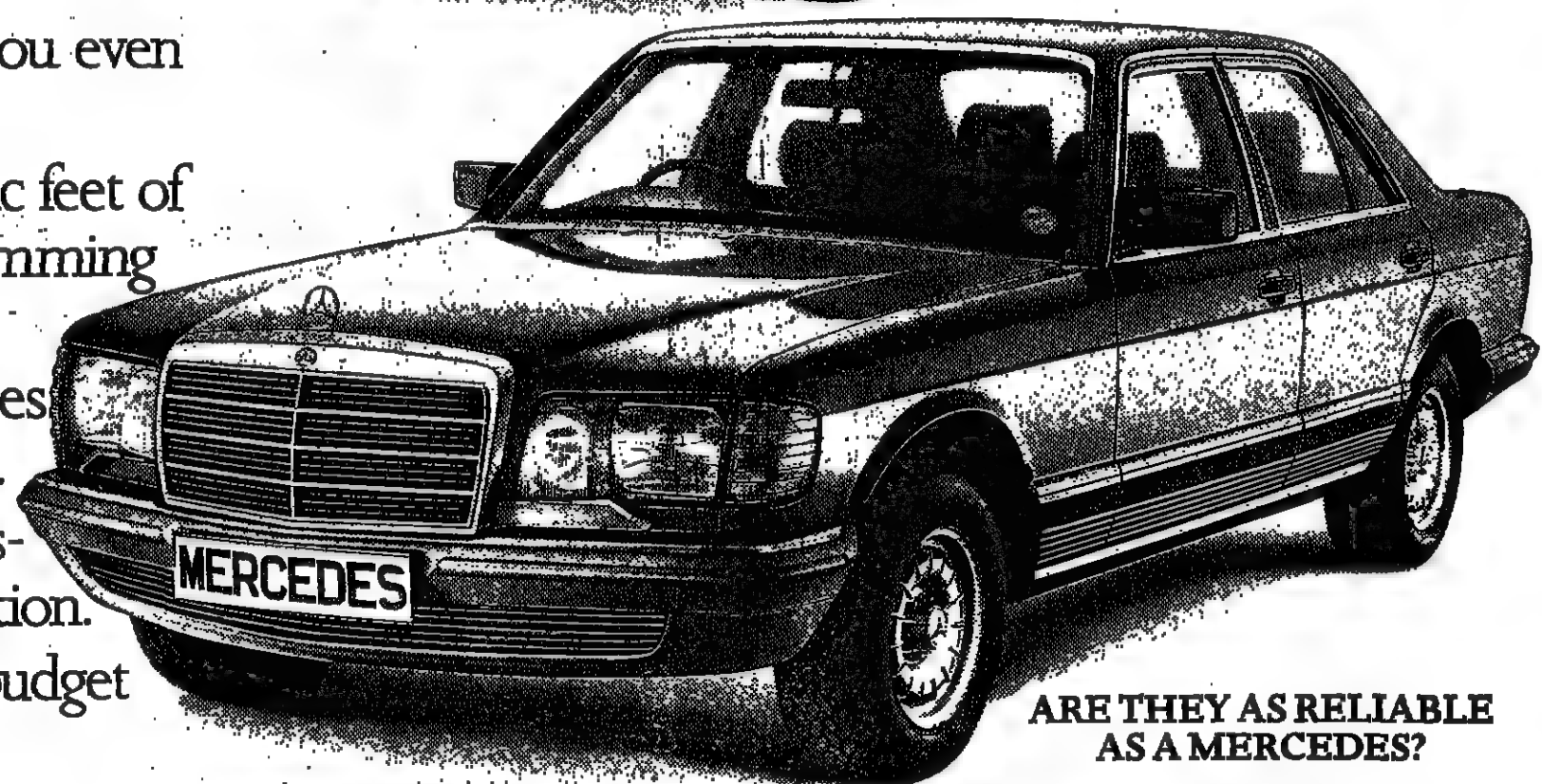
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1,022,000	Lochm	33				
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353,500	Bund	481	●	7	10	34
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6,680,000	Chapman	261	●	1	2	54
12,000	Clav (R. Lament)	145	●	12	5	10
6,964,000	Cropper (Chambers)	177	●	8	10	20
262,700	184	184	●	1	11	80
14,700	Subsistence Puts	265	●	10	10	25
74,000	Rich Design	265	●	10	10	25
15,000	Grass Groves	550	●	7	7	10
12,000	Good Resources	265	●	7	10	15
97,100	Love H-SC-E	298	●	10	6	2
74,000	McCorquodale	265	●	8	8	10
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4,835.0m	Univest	88	0	0	10.4
5,025.0m	Wince	418	0	0	12.8
51.4m	Washington (J)	575	-6	34.3	34.3
59.5m	Washington	262	-13	4.4	4.4

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1,821,000	Apex	22	0	23	23	17
42 Jan	Barrow Saw	96	0	7	17	17
145 Jan	Banquet (C-1)	464	-22	15	15	12
145 Jan	Shen (F)	233	0	15	15	17
152 Jan	Shen (F)	233	+30	15	17	17
172 Jan	St Land	191	+1	15	9	16
120 Jan	Brook	147	+2	7	8	22
187 Jan	Can & Counce	318	0	7	9	24

4,542,000	Cardiff Free	216	0	25	12	
37 Bn	Co-trochoid	308	0	49	42	150 0
94 1m	Chesterfield	470	0	150	32	258 0
14.3m	CALA	800	0	28	35	346 0
7,876,000	Clarke Nicholas	148	0	61	61	186 0
15.5m	Cornells	130	0	50	38	168 0
5,507,000	Country Club	21	3	45	21	70 4
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12.5m	Marblehead	48		0.1	14	26.7
14.7m	Marborough	58	+7	2.8	19	7.9
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32.5m	Mountbatten	448		0.4	17	13.8
18.8m	Muslow	375	+25	7.2	80	13.8
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365 3/4	Southern Bell	181	+1	7	4	48 1/2
29 1/2	Spencer	285	+10	12	4	13 1/2
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24 Feb	Town Centre	45		1.4	3.2	20.3
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09 Dec	Up Row	550	0.5	1.1	3.1	22.6
52 Jan	Water	655	-0.15	23.9	2.5	3.8
48 Jan	Warrand	485		20.7	4.3	46.5
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247 2nd	Caladonia	245	0	2	6	7	23	24.4
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16 1st	G. Lee	634	0	1	1	7	4	20.4
12 1st	Jacobsen (A)	127	0	1	1	5	4	24.7
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1,352 1000	Lyle	134						0.2
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TEXTILES						
43 Sm	Adult Turt	44G	10	10	44	100
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3,988 000	Blous Jockey	100	-2	5	50	50

15 Jan	Suburban (A)	80		8.2	6.1	10.9
6 Feb 2000	St. Monica	117	0	1	8.2	7.3
-	Suburban & Lomb	78			9.1	9.2
415 Jan	Capitol Hill		1	-1		
19 Jan	Costa Pinos	143		5	8.2	3.5
595 Jan	Corbin	58	0	1	5	4.6
	Courtside	157		-8	7.1	6.6
249 Jan	Crowther Jct		1	2	1	4.2
25 Jan 2000	Diamond	278	-4	7.6	4	11.3

14.3m	Dor Burns	186	5	5	4	5	6
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10.2m	Letter	82	7	4	4	2	4

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5181 000	MacKay (Hugh)	75	-1		55	8	15
5182 000	Martin	9	-1		42	4	3
5177 000	Parland A	9			8	7	4
498 000	SEST	104			7	0	4
245 000	Stewer Carpent	30			7	0	4
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398 000	Strandhus (P)	52	-10		3	0	0
548 000	Storvass Puley	70	-8		2	4	12

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	185	+3	88	52	75

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1583 Jm	Impulse	28	0.0	12	3	17
204 Am	Repayments B	126	-10	9	13	44

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Americans climb back into the driving seat

The Americans are back. In the log-book of the rickety old jalopy known as the postwar international monetary system, 1985 will go down as the year the United States got back into the driving seat. It remains to be seen if they know what to do, having switched on the engine; but the new US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, certainly seems to like playing with the gears.

Since the late 1970s, the Americans have been notable chiefly for their absence. At first, their authority was undermined by economic weakness. Six years ago, almost to the day, the newish chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr Paul Volcker, had to run home from the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to prop up the dollar.

It is ironic that the United States should be reclaiming its natural leadership role here at the IMF-World Bank meetings in Seoul, during a period when America's external deficit is even greater. And it is some credit to that same Fed chairman that today's dollar decline should be a matter of self-congratulation between America and its trading partners - so far at least - rather than nervous anxiety.

During the early 1980s, American inadequacy gave way to indifference. The first Reagan Administration did not want to drive the system. It believed the rest of us should get out and stand on our own two feet. Exchange-rate management was dangerous folly. The World Bank was a device for handing American money to America's enemies; or, at best, for assisting America's friends to debauch their economies, inflating their public sectors and distorting development.

This shadow of American opprobrium just fell short of the IMF, which escaped by tightening the terms and still more the rhetoric covering its loans to countries in balance-of-payments difficulties. The IMF was seen as a useful means of reinforcing natural economic discipline; thus, when the Latin American debt crisis broke, the IMF naturally assumed the role of intermediary between governments and their creditors.

IMF policy prescriptions provided a quick fix: debtors squeezed credit and cut imports, so that developing countries' combined current account deficits have fallen from \$104 billion (£73.5 billion) to \$44 billion during the past three years. More of Latin America's \$360 billion of official debt to its bankers could be serviced; some has been rescheduled. The immediate crisis gave way to new, and longer-term concerns.

No one, however, could have imagined that American policy for phase two would be so radically different. In just this year we have seen an American conversion to exchange-rate management: a sudden reawakening in American interest in the rest of the economic world; and, more remarkable still, a shift in favour from the IMF to the World Bank.

Some attribute the change to worries within the White House and the State Department that Latin America's difficulties with the IMF would render it susceptible to political contagion from Central America. Some say simply that Mr Baker has greater international sophistication than the previous US Treasury Secretary, Donald Regan. Others point to a new understanding throughout the American Administration that Latin America cannot simultaneously repay its American bankers and buy more American products without faster growth; and that new policies and new sources of finance are needed to achieve this.

Still others point, with reason, to Congressional pressures. It was Congressional demands for import restrictions that converted the Reagan Administration to downward manipulation of the dollar, in the hope that greater price competitiveness would assuage industrial America. The Group of Five finance ministers responsible for the world's major currencies have converted this, into quite a complex pattern of realignment, to their open satisfaction.

But Congress is not ready to vote funds for any international institution, even the IMF. Hence the American Administration has been scratching around for a package that would conjure new money out of thin air.

This would certainly go a long way to explain the American plan. This falls into two parts. First, for the "non-bankable" - the new euphemism for countries too poor or incompetently-run to borrow commercially - a combination of \$2.7 billion out of the IMF's trust fund, together with some World Bank money and American aid. Secondly, for "bankable" - the big debtors, concentrated in Latin America - an effort to persuade the commercial banks to increase their net exposure by 2-3 per cent a year, adding up to a cumulative \$20 billion to \$30 billion over three years or so. In support of this, the World Bank would roughly double its loans to the biggest debtors, raising the total from roughly \$10 billion to about \$20 billion over much the same period.

There are two puzzles in all this: where the World Bank is to find the money, and how the commercial banks are to be persuaded to dig into their pockets. For the American Administration is not about to ask Congress to increase the capital of the World Bank.

The World Bank, however, is below its existing lending limits. It also has existing programmes - such as its special African facility - which could slot neatly into the holes in the Baker plan. Is it possible, therefore, that the entire package will boil down to a modest redirection of World Bank activity, as a bait for the commercial banks?

Possibly, but by no means certainly. For the Baker plan envisages rather different uses of funds to those which have prevailed so far. The IMF lent on conditions which were most easily met by a quick recession induced by a credit crunch. The World Bank was told to keep its nose out of macroeconomic affairs. Now the two are to act together, imposing conditions more intimately related to long-term growth prospects; to offer more "structural" or "sectoral" loans designed, say, to correct pricing policies or stimulate exports.

There are some virtues in this approach. Looked at one way, it will inject a little IMF stringency into World Bank lending policies; it should also reduce conflict and duplication between the operations of the two institutions in the developing world. At the same time, it should broaden the IMF approach, away from a mechanistic set of short-term targets that do little to improve the fundamental quality of economic performance.

At the same time, there are dangers, not least to the Americans. The IMF's primary responsibility is the functioning of the world economic system; the World Bank's duty is more individual, to its client countries in the developing world. There is a risk in fudging the two functions, and in making the conditions on which loans are granted more judgemental. At the same time, it is not easy to see how money can be conjured out of the commercial banks without one or two bribes. Either the World Bank may find itself drawn too close in to the banks to provide something close to a guarantee of commercial loans (a device useful at the margin, dangerous as a general practice); or the regulators in central banks will have their arms twisted, to loosen up on risky lending to Third-World countries by the banks under their control.

Neither bribe may go down well in America, whose bankrupt farmers would much rather banking band-aid was plastered across their wounds. Charity, electorates still believe, should begin at home. So if the American Administration is serious in its intent towards Latin America, it is likely to find itself under pressure to cease juggling with the numbers, and put its hand in its own pocket. It is not yet quite clear that is what Mr Baker wants.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Group of Five will intervene further against the dollar

From Sarah Hogg and David Smith in Seoul

Finance ministers of the United States, Japan, Germany, France and Britain agreed to continue intervening against the dollar in the currency markets, though probably at a more modest pace, at private discussions in Seoul before the start of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

They also gave a qualified welcome to plans for a two-stage American initiative to supply new finance for developing countries, to be spent out by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, tomorrow.

In a statement to the IMF's key Interim Committee yesterday, Mr Baker stressed the "major problems" of large trade imbalances in the world economy, and said that "the United States recognizes its responsibility in helping to assure the sound world economy".

He claimed that growth in the industrial world would be "stronger" next year, reaching 3.5 to 4 per cent. However, forecasts yesterday by the IMF suggest growth of little more than 3 per cent, up only marginally from this year's 2.8 per cent.

Finance ministers of the Group of Five big economies, reviewing the effects of intervention since their emergency meeting in New York on September 22, expressed satisfaction with the pattern of realignment, in which the yen had risen most sharply, followed by the German.

British sources indicated that lessons learned during the previous attempt at intervention in January had been put into effect, in particular the need to resist pressure when the London markets opened each day.

Further details of the US debt plan suggest that the American Treasury is urging the commercial banks to increase their net exposure to the major debtors by 2-3 per cent a year, adding up to \$20 billion - £30 billion over three years or so.

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyd's Bank, welcomed the Baker proposals, although American bankers have expressed some scepticism about them.

The American plan envisages an increase in World Bank lending in support of the commercial banks, with an



Sir Jeremy Morse: welcome for Baker proposals

channelled into long-term loans to the poorest countries. Eligibility is to be based on income per head, but China and India are expected to agree to be excluded, which would allow almost all the money to be directed towards sub-Saharan Africa.

The major governments remain firmly opposed to a further allocation of Special Drawing Rights to member countries. The United States wishes to lower access limits for borrowers from the IMF, but other governments, including the British, are in favour of retaining existing limits for fear of sending the "wrong signals" to the developing world.

The US also remains resistant to the idea of an increase in capital for the World Bank. However, other participants in the meetings remain sceptical about the American plans unless the US demonstrates some readiness to increase its own contribution.

During discussions on the world economy, finance ministers stressed the need for Germany and Japan to increase demand in their economies. This point was stressed in the new IMF forecasts.

Thames TV close to £80m sale

By Jeremy Warner

Ownership of Thames Television, Britain's largest independent TV company, is expected to change hands shortly in a transaction worth more than £80 million.

The TV station's two largest shareholders, Thorn EMI and BET, are believed to have abandoned plans to float the company on the stock market, and are now thinking of selling it to a single buyer. A company has made an offer for Thames and it is sufficiently high for BET and Thorn EMI to be tempted.

However, any change in ownership would require the Independent Broadcasting Authority's approval.

Thorn EMI's 46 per cent stake in Thames is held through its screen entertainment division, which is already the subject of a management buyout proposal.

The management bid for the screen entertainment interests which include the ABC cinemas, the EMI film studios and a substantial film and video library, excludes the Thames TV share stake. Last year, profits at Thames fell from £16.5 million to £8.8 million. Two senior executives left earlier this year, including Mr Bryan Cowgill, former managing director, who left in a dispute over the poaching of Dallas from the BBC.

There could be fierce competition for Thames.

Sir Graham Wilkins, Thorn EMI's new chairman, has hired Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank to review all the group's businesses.

'Trade deficit likely by 1990'

Britain is likely to face a growing balance of payments problem by the end of the decade, according to the latest medium-term forecast by Cambridge Econometrics.

Britain will again be a net importer of oil by then, while manufacturing exports, which have declined as oil exports have increased, are not expected to recover by enough to prevent deficits on the current account, the forecasting unit says.

Imports penetration in manufactured goods will continue to rise, taking a 37 per cent share of the market by 1990.

Challenge to Tories on personal wealth

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Individuals should be entitled to create a personal investment pool with privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by pension funds, a new pamphlet by the portable pension campaigners Mr Philip Chappell and Lord Vinson suggests.

The authors' conclusions, published under the auspices of the Centre for Policy Studies, are directed at the Conservative Party conference this week.

Mr Chappell and Lord Vinson praise the Government's efforts to spread personal wealth but charge that "a Government committed to the encouragement of entrepreneurship and the principle of wider ownership might have been expected to introduce wider reforms".

"The concentration of ownership of wealth has increased and is still increasing. Given the fiscal bias in favour of institutions, this is scarcely surprising".

If there is to be equal tax treatment for institutional and private saving, extending tax privileges to all savers has "practical and political advantages" over removing tax privileges altogether.

The main vehicle they suggest for redressing this balance, the personal investment pool.

Quilter and Paribas 'near deal'

By Our City Staff

Paribas, the French state-owned banking group, is in the final stages of negotiations to buy Quilter, Goodison, the stockbroking firm headed by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, according to weekend reports.

Quilter would neither confirm nor deny the reports but, if a deal is struck, the firm will have to disentangle itself from an agreement signed in April last year to be taken over by the Swedish insurance group Scandia.

Scandia bought a 29.9 per cent stake in Quilter and signed an agreement with the firm to buy the rest when Stock Exchange rules permitted.

Last week, the Stock Exchange Council announced that it would lift the restrictions on outside ownership of member firms from next March.

The reports say Scandia may be keen to sell its stake in Quilter and abandon the takeover plan.

This would allow Paribas, ranked 30th largest bank in the world in terms of assets, to step into the breach. Paribas has no significant security trading business in London and Quilter would keep its name and independence under the deal.

'Run on banks' warning in Canada

From William Kay, Vancouver

The head of Barclays Bank in British Columbia was warned that there could be a run on more Canadian regional banks.

Mr Don McCarthy, vice-president and manager of Barclays' Vancouver office, was speaking in the wake of the collapse of the Northland Bank last week. Northland, based at Calgary, Alberta, was the second regional bank in a month to fail.

"There is the danger of a run on some of the others", said Mr McCarthy.

"They will find it difficult to raise wholesale money because people will be placing their money with the big five banks instead. The regional banks are not going to the Bank of Canada".

The Bank of Canada has been criticized for its handling of the two collapses. It was revealed on Wednesday that the federal government was pulling money out of one of the troubled banks in July, at the same time as it was urging other depositors publicly to stay put.

Mr McCarthy added that the reporting procedures had not been good enough and, in an echo of the Johnson Matthey affair in London, he indicated that the auditors of the two failed banks could come under attack.

US NOTEBOOK

Sluggish growth baffles markets

From Maxwell Newton New York

The American economy remains sluggish, showing poor growth, with diminishing prospects for a fourth quarter growth revival.

Employment growth has slowed sharply. In the latest three months to September, payroll employment rose 642,000, down 30 per cent on the same quarter last year, down 25 per cent on the March quarter this year and up 14 per cent on the June quarter.

Manufacturing employment is declining sharply. In the September quarter, it was down 124,000 after declines of 126,000 in the June quarter and 77,000 in the March quarter.

Therefore, President Reagan's argument that the economy is "revving up" has been undermined.

The financial markets are as baffled as many American economists by the continuing failure of the economy to show vigorous despite explosive growth of the popular (if misleading) money M1 which has risen about 14 per cent a year since October last year.

Bond futures have been fluctuating narrowly since June, while stock index futures have plummeted, with the December New York Foreign Exchange contract falling from 115.5 in mid-June to 105.8 last Friday.

The gloom in the bond and stock markets has led many institutional investors to suggest that this is a good time to buy.

An explanation for the economy's tremendous problems in finding a new growth path may lie in the unwinding of huge inventory positions built up last year.

The size of the decline in inventory accumulation may be so large as to have normally been associated with a recession. Indeed, many commentators expected a recession in the second half of this year, but have since downgraded their forecasts to one of minimal growth.

The rate of inventory build-up in the six quarters ended the second quarter this year has been extraordinarily high.

These are the figures for the increase in business inventories from the GNP statistics:

- 1976-1979 (inclusive): \$44 billion (£30 billion) (1972 constant prices).
- 1980-1983 (inclusive): \$7.1 billion (1972 prices).
- 1984-1985 first half (inclusive): \$37.3 billion (1972 prices).

The present inventory cycle appears to have topped out in the third quarter of last year, when the rate of business inventory accumulation reached \$30.6 billion a year in terms of 1972 prices.

Hong Kong bid

Hutchison Whampoa and Hongkong Electric have made a joint HK\$3.55 billion (£320 million) bid for International City Holdings, one of Hong Kong's largest property companies. International City is already 34.6 per cent owned by Hongkong Electric and the company's other large shareholder, Cheung Kong with 30.7 per cent, has agreed to accept the bid.

Fleet ready to broaden battlefield

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Fleet Holdings will this week launch a fresh attack on the £230 million takeover bid from United Newspapers. Fleet is still considering whether to make a profit forecast but is almost certainly going to try to broaden the battlefield away from Fleet Street and will be stressing the success of its Morgan-Grampian magazine business.

United has until the end of next week to raise its offer and Mr David Stevens, the chairman, insists his all-share offer is "manifestly generous". But with Fleet capitalized at around £280 million, it seems inevitable that he will increase the terms.

At the weekend, United criticized Fleet's £121 million valuation of its stake in Reuters, but Fleet said yesterday its auditors were happy with it.

This week Fleet will try to convince shareholders of its profit potential. While United has cited the falling circulation of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* Fleet will direct attention to Morgan-Grampian's plan to pre-interest profits of £10.8 million in the year to June against £10.6 million for national newspapers.

Small firms 'far less profitable'

Small companies are far less profitable and efficient than large ones and will disappoint people relying on them as the answer to Britain's economic ills, a business expert has warned.

Professor Paul Burns, who has the chair of small business development at Cranfield School of Management, believes

the Government may have to change its policy on small firms to increase their efficiency and encourage them to grow.

Prof Burns has examined aspects of small businesses, from gearing to return on assets, and calculates that in 1980 businesses with less than £100,000 capital made a return on total assets of only 3.6 per cent.

Medium-sized companies performed better and larger ones better still.

Writing in *The Director* magazine, Prof Burns expresses concern about the lack of financial stability in small companies which, in comparison with larger companies, rely more on creditors to provide finance.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Friday's close and change on week	Friday's close and change on week
FT Ind Ord 1016.5 (+26.9)	London: E: \$1,418.0 (+0.0065)
FT All Share 637.94 (+15.57)	E: DM 3,721.1 (-0.0503)
FT Gov Securities 84.31 (+0.33)	E: SWF 3,053.7 (-0.0361)
FT-SE 100 1313.1 (+32.2)	E: FT 1,350.0 (-0.1462)
Bergains 21.18	E: Yen 302.53 (-5.5)
Datastream USM 105.89 (+1.85)	E: Index 79.8 (-0.9)
New York Dow Jones 1328.74 (+7.95)	New York: E: \$1,424.7
Tokyo Nikkei Dow 12,713.83 (+175.12)	S: DM 2,609.0
Hong Kong Hang Seng 1587.87 (+76.07)	S: Index 130.0 (-2.2)
Amsterdam Gen 212.4 (-0.5)	
Sydney: AO 1008.4 (+25.9)	

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week
London: E: \$1,418.0 (+0.0065)
E: DM 3,721.1 (-0.0503)
E: SWF 3,053.7 (-0.0361)
E: FT 1,350.0 (-0.1462)
E: Yen 302.53 (-5.5)
E: Index 79.8 (-0.9)
New York: E: \$1,424.7
S: DM 2,609.0
S: Index 130.0 (-2.2)

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Cannon St Investments, Falcon Resources, Bstock Johnson, S. Jerome and Sons, Jersey General Investment Trust, London and Edinburgh Trust, Molins, Moran Tea Holdings, Finance: Close Bros Group, Ferry Pickering Group.

TOMORROW - Interim: Bowthorpe Holdings, Caparo Industries, Christie International, Comp. S. W. Farmer, Fothergill and Hunter, London and Continental Advertising, N M W

Computers, Sears, Silkeborg Lubricants, Turf Corp, C. and W. Walker Holdings, Finance: Grosvenor Group, Lawtex.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: Alfa-Laval, Bruntons (Musselburgh), Equity and General, Higgs and Hill, Holt Lloyd International, Johnston Group, Portland Holdings, Slaters Food Products, Finance: Sanderson, Murray and Elder, William Sinclair Holdings.

THURSDAY - Interim: Acom Computers, Campari International, Caparo Properties, Horace Cory, Cullen's Holdings, Elwick-Hopper, Fortnum and Mason, Norman Hay, House Property of London, Kinley and Forester, Raybeck, Ruberold, TDS Crouths, Finance: Abingworth, Acrolec, Britannia Securities, Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries, Druck Holdings, J. Maunders, C. H. Pearce and Sons, Photo-Me International, F. W. Thorpe.

FRIDAY - Interim: Aberdeen Steak Houses, F. G. Gates, Jersey Electricity, Midland Marks Group, Microlease, Property Trust, Toser Kinsley and Milbourn, Western Holdings, Finance: Charlie Brown Car Part Centre.

MURRAY INCOME TRUST PLC

Results for the year ended 30 June 1985

	1985	1984
Equity shareholders' interest	£112,686,767	£89,814,226
Asset value per share	135.0p	107.7p
Revenue available to ordinary shareholders	£4,283,618	£3,628,612
Earnings per ordinary share	5.22p	4.43p
Ordinary dividend per share - interim	1.70p	1.60p
- final	3.30p	2.80p
Capitalisation issue in B ordinary shares	3.78035%	4.18244%

Investment Policy

To attain a high income return with security and growth of capital.

Highlights of the Year

Dividend
A total dividend of 5.00p per share is recommended, an increase of 13.6%.

Over the past ten years dividends to shareholders have increased more than 800 per cent. A total dividend of not less than 5.40p is forecast for the year ending 30 June 1986.

Revenue

Revenue available to ordinary shareholders increased by 18.1%.

Capital

Net asset value per share increased by 25.3% compared with an increase of 22.1% in the FT Actuaries All-Share Index over the year.

Distribution of assets as a percentage of shareholders' equity.

	1985	1984
Equities	%	%
United Kingdom	79.9	79.0
North America	10.2	2.9
Japan	-	3.7
Far East	4.4	3.9
Europe	5.2	3.7
Other Americas	0.4	0.6
South Africa	0.4	0.8
	100.5	94.6
Bonds and Cash		
United Kingdom	1.7	1.3
North America	5.2	4.0
Europe	0.4	2.1
Far East	0.4	0.6
Japan	0.3	-
Net Cash	0.7	5.1
	8.7	13.1
Total Assets	109.2	107.7
Less prior charges at nominal value	(9.2)	(7.7)
	100.0	100.0



MURRAY JOHNSTONE

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Secretary, Murray Income Trust PLC, 163 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2UH.

ORDINARY SHARES

Stores beckon as bumper Christmas trade nears

October promises to be a particularly optimistic month for retail stocks. Shopkeepers are always at their happiest in the autumn and this year there seems every reason why their good humour should be mirrored in their share prices.

The Indian summer has evaporated into more seasonal weather, encouraging shoppers to invest in winter clothes; some good figures, and even better hopes, are about to be reported by the major store groups; and the prospect of yet another bumper Christmas is now beginning to turn into reality at the tills.

The stores sector is already on a high rating against the rest of the market but, while enthusiasm elsewhere is now concentrated almost entirely on takeover hopes, stores at least offer some fundamental attractions.

"We expect that profits growth from the sector will be double the market average for the next two years," says Mr John Richards, the retail expert at Wood Mackenzie, the broker. And his forecasts are not as bullish as those of some other leading analysts.

The main focus of attention is Marks and Spencer, which will reveal the extent of its high street dominance at the end of the month. It will report that

pretax profits in the six months to September rose by more than a tenth to at least £125 million. More important than the figures will be the news on trading, and it is likely to bolster the view that M & S is now back on the growth trail with a vengeance.

Satellite stores are providing M & S with almost instant physical growth and demonstrating that, while other companies are paying huge sums for sites to accommodate their grandiose development schemes, Marks is flexible enough to spot the way to win.

Simultaneously, the company's new found flexible friend, the chameleon, is bringing in business faster than anyone had dared hope.

The card is now accounting for about 8% per cent of M & S sales and holders are apparently doing their best to justify the view that people shopping on plastic buy more than those reliant on cash and cheques.

All the developments at M & S are costing money, which is why Mr Richards believes that the growth in profits may not be as rapid as others predict. He expects £335 million for the year while another broker, W Greenwell & Co., is looking for a leap from £303 million to £360 million.

On that basis the shares are trading on a prospective 20

TEMPUS

Gilt: Stoic Chancellor prepares for City lions

Horace would have understood the Chancellor. Around 20 BC the great Roman satirist wrote in his Epistles: "Ac ne forte roges, quo me ducit... inter: Quo me cumque rapiat tempestas, deferat, hospes." Horace pledges his belief in flexibility. Very roughly translated, he says that whatever happens to him, he will accept it.

But Horace was an Epicurean and a pragmatist. For the Chancellor no such luxury is available. Although the last year has provided any number of wind intellectual odysseys, which brought with them their own justification, he is ultimately committed to an oft-reiterated interpretative framework of the economy. But his followers are not wholly convinced about this lack of ambivalence.

Over the next fortnight, the Chancellor has the opportunity to remedy this deficiency. He is scheduled to make two speeches - one in Blackpool to the Tory Party and one in the City - where ground lost to the sceptics can be recovered.

As if in recognition of the gravity of the situation, the gilt market - more or less ground to a halt at times last week. Later in the week, enthusiasm began to revive, and the Government Broker was in there, selling hard. Nevertheless, faced with the uncertainty surrounding the Chancellor's precise intentions, few traders feel bold enough to take heavy positions.

The first speech, to the party faithful at Blackpool, may prove to be the easier of the two. The Chancellor has some reasonable numbers to cast at the conference. Inflation trends look good; output is attractive; the trade balance is not a big problem.

But the Chancellor also has a far more potent line of argument. British living standards are rising rapidly. The statistical proxy for this is the calculation of real personal disposable income, compiled by Whitehall statisticians.

The Chancellor's gamble, on

high interest rates and an overvalued exchange rate has paid off so far. In the second quarter, personal disposable income rose by 8 per cent, while inflation was just 4½ per cent. The net figure equals the rise in UK living standards. It can even be argued, too, that the sudden fall in inflation has taken the British consumer so much by surprise that he has not immediately fallen victim to excess consumption.

Add to this attractive scenario a possible cut in base rates - something the gilt market was starting to scent late on Friday - and the Chancellor could survive his ordeal by speech-making relatively unscathed.

The evening of October 17 provides a different setting. The Chancellor will be at the Mansion House with the great barons of the City in attendance. A different set of expectations are involved, and possibly a far more profound sense of disappointment so far. The extent to which hopes have been frustrated can be gauged by close scrutiny of last year's Mansion House speech.

The Chancellor made a number of statements about monetary policy and effectively provided the City with a number of undertakings about the conduct of such policies. Fears, for example, about the trends in the PSBR were unfounded, the Chancellor stated. He was confident that £M3 would end up within the target range for the third successive year.

"Monetary aggregates," he stated quite categorically, "are of central relevance to judging monetary conditions and determining interest rates... We take the exchange rate into consideration when its behaviour suggests that domestic monetary indicators are giving a false reading, which they are not." The Chancellor also went out of his way to allay any misunderstanding in the markets about the background to the sharp rise in interest rates in July 1984.

Sadly, virtually every position which the Chancellor chose to adopt has subsequently been invalidated by events. By the turn of the year, Britain was gripped by perhaps the most turbulent exchange rate crisis it had ever seen. Base rates were pushed up to a panic 14 per cent, the effects of the British Telecommunications flotation distorted the monetary aggregates to an unrecognizable degree.

The relevant Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin notes that distorted banking November figures for £M3 weakened earlier market confidence that the domestic monetary and fiscal situation was under adequate control.... "It became apparent that there had been a substantial increase in the pace of bank lending to the private sector, and that the PSBR was running ahead of earlier expectations." Recently, of course, the authorities decided to accommodate above-target growth of £M3, switching instead to exchange rate targeting.

Small wonder, therefore, that the Chancellor's City audience awaits his comments with interest. Some claim that the experience of the last year will have chastened his exuberance. Has he, in Horace's words, discovered *tristis post humum* - recitatio after excess monetary growth?

Hopes of repentance, deathbed or otherwise, may be premature. In a little remarked aside recently, the Chancellor sneered at commentators obsessed with the minutiae of financial affairs, hence justifying setting aside the complexities of the monetary aggregates. The evolution of techniques of monetary control was of subsidiary importance, he suggested, to issues such as wider share ownership.

But after the experience of the past 12 months, the City is ravenously keen to learn more, not less, about these techniques. Will it be disappointed?

Law Report October 7 1985

Garnishee order not 'criminal cause'

Gooch v Ewing
Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Dillon
[Judgment delivered October 3]

Garnishee proceedings taken by a magistrates' clerk in respect of payment of compensation and costs made on a conviction were not a "criminal cause or matter" for the purpose of precluding an appeal to the Court of Appeal.

But the garnishee proceedings in respect of the order for compensation could not be lawfully authorized while a petition by the convicted person to the House of Lords, which had the effect of suspending the order, was pending.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing in part an appeal by Mr Alan Lucas Gooch, Senior Chief Clerk at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, from an order of Sir Neil Lawson, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on February 12, 1985, discharging a garnishee order nisi made against the judgment debtor, Mr Terence Patrick Ewing, of Helston Court, Culver Road, South Tottenham, London.

Mr Peter Birss for Mr Gooch; the respondent judgment debtor in person; Mr David Griffith-Jones for the garnishee, Allied Irish Banks Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that in 1981 the respondent had been convicted of theft and forgery and ordered to pay compensation and costs. An appeal to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) had only succeeded in part and the respondent had petitioned the House of Lords for leave to appeal.

Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, which was the court having the duty to enforce the payment of the orders for costs and compensation, was not notified of the petition.

While the petition was pending that court conducted an inquiry as to whether the respondent had sufficient means to satisfy the orders, and, having found that the respondent had defaulted in payment of the amount due, ordered the clerk of the court to take garnishee proceedings in the High Court to attach the respondent's bank balance.

The clerk obtained a garnishee order nisi the next day. The bank paid the clerk without waiting for an order absolute and the clerk asked the High Court to withdraw the proceedings. On the respondent's application the master discharged the order nisi.

Subsequently, the respondent obtained summary judgment against the bank on a claim that they had paid the money without his authority and the bank issued a writ against the clerk to recover the money paid under mistake.

Subsequently, the clerk repaid the bank and obtained a new garnishee order nisi. It was from the discharge of that order on the ground of want of jurisdiction that the clerk was appealing.

A preliminary objection to the appeal, taken by the respondent, raised the issue of whether the fact that the garnishee proceedings arose because of the respondent's convictions barred the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal.

His Lordship said that the

authorization enabled the clerk to apply for a garnishee order nisi in respect of the order for costs but not for the payment of compensation. Since the two sums were identified separately, the authorization in respect of the one which could not have been lawfully authorized could be disregarded.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE and LORD JUSTICE DILLON agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Palmer Cowen.

His Lordship bore in mind the

intention of Parliament which was to rate unoccupied property in certain circumstances. When Parliament passed the provisions of the Act it had expressly taken steps to soften the blow in favour of charities and of certain industrial properties.

The tenor of paragraph 1 (1) and (1A) taken together with section 1 was to forego principles of rating hereditament or owner was made subject to rates in the sense that its owner should be rated "for any relevant period of vacancy." Accordingly, liability to pay rates accrued at the end of the three-month period even though there had been a change of ownership at the end of or during those three months and the subsequent owner was not entitled to a further standard period free of rates.

Mr Justice Macpherson so held in the Queen's Bench Division when he allowed the appeal of Camden London Borough Council, the rating authority, from the justices' refusal to grant a distress warrant against the respondents in respect of unpaid rates.

The respondents were the owners of premises which they had leased under a tenancy agreement which terminated on June 24, 1983. The tenant had been granted relief under paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 in respect of the period immediately before his tenancy terminated.

The rating authority preferred a complaint against the respondents to show why a distress warrant should not be issued in respect of unpaid rates from June 25, 1983 to September 29, 1983 during which the premises were unoccupied. The justices were of the opinion that the rate relief afforded by paragraph 1 ran with ownership of the premises and not the premises themselves and refused to order a distress warrant.

Mr M. A. H. Cottle for Camden; Mr W. M. R. Eland for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that historically the principle in rating was to tax the occupier of property or land. That had been so since 1601. By section 16 of the General Rate Act 1967 that principle was in general continued.

Until the days of inflation which became manifest in May 1983, it was never thought necessary or desirable to change that principle, but the time came when Parliament wished to enable rating authorities to levy rates in respect of unoccupied property. Local authorities could by section 17 of and schedule 1 to the Act establish a liability to be rated in respect of certain unoccupied property.

The question was whether the respondents were able to claim the benefit of a further "standard period" free of rates when their tenant had already in the same rating year had such a benefit.

The relevant part of the Act was fiscal in nature and must thus receive strict construction and regard must be had to the clear meaning of the words used and they must be given fair and reasonable construction according to their context.

Both the tenant, from May to July 1983, and then immediately the respondents were successively "the owner" of the hereditament and each should be liable to rates as "the owner" in turn.

Once the hereditament owner became liable in May 1983, liability did not abate or disappear because the tenancy expired and the respondents stepped into the tenant's shoes.

Mr Eland stressed the personal nature of the liability to rates in support of his argument that only the owner in possession in which the three months' period should be liable in respect of that particular three months.

But, while the personal liability remained the fact of the charge to rates, once the three months was over there was nothing strange or unjust in the conclusion that successive owners remained liable in turn as they gained their right to possession.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed and the respondents were liable to the rates claimed.

Solicitors: Mr Francis Nickson; Stanley Sovin & Partners.

USM REVIEW

Distressing results cloud anniversary

These are anxious days for the USM. As the junior market nears its fifth anniversary - an event which will surely attract a flow of enthusiastic comment - there is a growing worry in some quarters that the market is not achieving some essential requirements.

The undertone is not helped by a run of distressing company results. World, the vegetable group, Securigard, the security group, Associated Energy Services and Fergabrook Group, the toy and household goods distributor, have made statements which have had a devastating impact on their respective share prices.

And as if to underline the market's overall failure to perform, the Datastream USM shares index continues to jog along at a little over 100 points, showing no sign of breaking out from its 95-110 points strait-jacket.

Alongside this long-running sluggishness, more and more voices can be heard questioning whether the USM is offering investors the sort of market they should be able to expect.

Those who sold shares when their company was floated now talk resignedly about the "paper fortune" which their remaining, often controlling stake represents. They know they cannot realize much of their wealth without acutely depressing their company's share price.

And "outside" investors often lament the lack of marketability of shares and their inability to deal in realistic amounts.

One broker said: "Too often people are afraid to deal because a relatively modest

transaction can have a disproportionate impact on a share price."

He also believes that not enough USM companies have taken advantage of their quoted status and attempted to expand by issuing shares for acquisitions.

However, as if to emphasize the USM's torment, two of the companies which have made takeovers recently feature in the distress list - Securigard and Fergabrook.

Securigard made a £1.7 million takeover of Consolidated Safeguard - and its troubles started. The market, looking for full-year profits of £1.4 million, was distraught to hear that because of merger problems an unchanged £821,000 was in prospect. The shares collapsed - from 145p to 75p. Fergabrook, with a variety of problems including its £5.4 million T1 Trade buy, has fallen from 105p to 35p.

Horace Gooch, the broker, commented: "One of the main corporate attractions of a USM quotation is the availability of paper for expansion but pitfalls can exist especially if purchases prove over-ambitious, run into unforeseen problems or simply stretch management resources."

As Securigard tumbled from 145p to 75p in a week it was virtually impossible for a large shareholder to get out without creating much more unrest. And it will not have escaped the notice of the controlling shareholders that the very narrowness of the USM has helped erode their personal fortunes.

Mr Simon Metcalf, a director of County Bank with an array of successful USM issues under its belt, is also unhappy about the poor share price performances of many USM stocks.

He feels the often disappointing level of share prices must influence many companies contemplating a USM launch and make investors more critical of buying USM shares.

In many respects the USM has been a success. There are now almost 400 constituents and the flow of recruits shows no sign of diminishing. Much cash has been raised for industry and selling shareholders. But there is no doubt that a mountain of problems exist - and there is little sign of it being resolved.

Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Patience Wheatcroft

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	P/E
ABN Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Adam & Company	110	0	110	110	0	11
Barclays	110	0	110	110	0	11
BCCI	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank Savings	110	0	110	110	0	11
Continental Trust	110	0	110	110	0	11
Co-operative Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
C. Hoare & Co	110	0	110	110	0	11
Lloyds Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Nat Westminster	110	0	110	110	0	11
TSB	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank NA	110	0	110	110	0	11

† Mortgage Base Rate.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	P/E
ABN Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Adam & Company	110	0	110	110	0	11
Barclays	110	0	110	110	0	11
BCCI	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank Savings	110	0	110	110	0	11
Continental Trust	110	0	110	110	0	11
Co-operative Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
C. Hoare & Co	110	0	110	110	0	11
Lloyds Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Nat Westminster	110	0	110	110	0	11
TSB	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank NA	110	0	110	110	0	11

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	P/E
ABN Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Adam & Company	110	0	110	110	0	11
Barclays	110	0	110	110	0	11
BCCI	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank Savings	110	0	110	110	0	11
Continental Trust	110	0	110	110	0	11
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Lloyds Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Nat Westminster	110	0	110	110	0	11
TSB	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank NA	110	0	110	110	0	11

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	P/E
ABN Bank	110	0	110	110	0	11
Adam & Company	110	0	110	110	0	11
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Nat Westminster	110	0	110	110	0	11
TSB	110	0	110	110	0	11
Citibank NA	110	0	110	110	0	11

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مكتبة النجف

The Chinese puzzle facing the colony



Hong Kong stands on the threshold of a unique and intriguing experiment in political change. To be transformed in the space of a dozen years from a British colony into an autonomous region of the world's biggest communist country will surely go down as a historic first.

Many in Hong Kong are anxious and troubled about the future. Others are more optimistic, believing the territory's well-known adaptability will see it through the crucial period of transformation. This year has seen the introduction of rudimentary elements of democratic reform - the election of members of District Boards, and more recently, the poll for elected members of the Legislative Council. The idea is to have more than half the Legislative Council elected by the 1990s and, perhaps, even some members of the powerful Executive Council which advises the governor.

THE TIMES
1785-1985

Since its cession to Britain in 1841 Hong Kong has become one of the great financial and communications centres of the world. This seven-page Bicentenary Special Report looks at the territory as it prepares for its return to China, as a Special Administrative Region, in 1997

But, as it is, the franchise is still very narrow, being restricted to members of "functional constituencies" - representing commerce and industry, the learned professions, and other interest groups, accounting for less than one per cent of the population of about six million. There is as yet no system of political parties and many

the increasing prosperity it has created for itself since World War Two, while China wants it to go on generating foreign exchange and export opportunities to assist the mainland's modernization programme.

Peking's interest in Hong Kong's continued "prosperity and stability" - the phrase most often used to describe the goal of Anglo-Chinese cooperation over the territory's future - is still very strong, despite the fast pace of development in the People's Republic and the rising living standards there. It will be a long time before China can easily dispense with its earnings from and through Hong Kong, especially with a big foreign trade deficit expected this year in Peking.

Hong Kong's 144-year journey since the first Anglo-Chinese war - also called the First Opium War - has been an extraordinary saga in itself, to say nothing of the forthcoming transformation. Described by Palmerston as "a barren rock", the island soon became a buoyant trade centre and naval base which expanded in both territory and population at a



great pace in the second half of the nineteenth century. Opium remained important to the British administration in Hong Kong as a source of revenue right up until the Japanese occupation of the colony in December, 1941.

But in the meantime Hong Kong's trade expanded to cover a host of other products of European industry and Chinese traditional manufactures. After the Japanese surrender, the colony's economy boomed through exports of textiles and, later, other light industrial consumer goods such as plastic flowers and toys. The property explosion attracted banks and finance houses from all over the world, with the result that Hong Kong is nowadays considered the world's third most important financial centre after London and New York.

The boom syndrome has not always been good for Hong Kong because it has led to three financial crises in 1964, 1973 and 1982. The pattern has become familiar: prominent banks coming under pressure or failing because of over-extension in property.

Nonetheless, Hong Kong has weathered these crises and always returned to boom conditions within a year or two. Even the Cultural Revolution and the 1976 upheavals in China around the time of the death of chairman Mao Tse-tung failed to dent its prosperity. With economic success has come a degree of social

progress, though many people consider it inadequate. Despite huge efforts in housing of refugees from China, the older urban areas still have too many slums, social welfare is minimal, and health and educational facilities need upgrading.

The guiding philosophy has always been to give economic forces a free rein, and let social services glean what they can from the fall-out. By comparison with conditions across the border in southern China, this would seem to have been a successful formula. Hong Kong has more and better social services than most parts of the People's Republic.

But then Hong Kong has been spared the historical scourges of famine, civil war and political strife which have held the mainland back.

Progress towards better living standards and less arbitrary government in China in recent years have done their bit to reassure Hong Kong people that they will not suffer great oppression or poverty on the reversion of sovereignty to China in 1997. This makes it unfortunate that the recent national conference of the Communist Party in Peking

revealed a degree of disunity among the leaders, over economic reform and planning, which had only been hinted at before.

Whatever policies rule in Peking, Hong Kong has a case to plead for non-interference in its economic and social system. But the opposition to the reforms master-minded by elder statesman Deng Xiaoping and his fellow-octogenarian Chen Yun, long seen as the power behind Chinese planning, is not encouraging for those who hope to see consistent and sustained economic policies in China.

Hong Kong's trade is increasingly involving exports to China to help that country with its crash development programmes. This may be a partial defence against growing protectionism in the rich countries. But without stable policies in Peking, Hong Kong's economic position will be shaky, and shakiness is the last thing the territory needs during the next twelve years' progress towards economic and political institutions capable of guarding its internal autonomy after 1997.

David Bonavia



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Ready to take up the challenge

The scene changes so rapidly in Hong Kong that there is little time to reflect on the past. If we do find time for a backward glance it is to check progress and take bearings, leaving little room for sentiment, nostalgia or regret.

A quarter of a century ago took me into the countryside of Hong Kong. For the first time I was exposed to beliefs and customs which, in a farming community, still echoed the traditions of the last dynasty and beyond that a remoter past. Even then, however, already the rhythm of life was quickening. The last of the rice fields was soon to disappear; people were already talking interestedly of development and progress without perhaps realizing that these magic words brought with them not only prosperity but problems of a different kind.

It is not that the festivals, the ceremonies and the country pleasures have gone, but they have changed. In the market towns families still gather in the early morning at festival time but nowadays they wear their way through tower blocks, and past thousands of spectators in the stadium, to the temple in the outlying fields.

So it seems in Hong Kong, at times, not that one is growing old, but that one has lived for many centuries. If you cannot live with change, Hong Kong is not the place to live. If we look back over the past twenty years we see not only a different landscape but different people differently employed. We remember the years of typhoon and drought, and the great surges of immigration and challenges that have been taken up and thrown back.

We take it for granted that our population has grown by a million in each of the past ten years and that modern high-rise homes, small perhaps by western standards, but homes for more than a quarter of a million people, are built every year.

It is the people of Hong Kong who have generated resources to improve almost every sphere of life and activity - education, health, welfare. And it is the people of Hong Kong who will provide the answer to their future.

In August last year, a few weeks before the Sino-British Declaration was published, a full-page advertisement appeared in many of leading Hong Kong newspapers, bearing the

Hong Kong rise above the challenge?

Those who signed the advertisement believed that it would. A belief in the positive outcome of negotiations, which were then still in progress, permeated the whole tone of the text, closing with an appeal to the people of Hong Kong "to be more involved in public affairs through a greater awareness and personal participation". I am sure that today, those

get their printed copies. In this year already the formal institutions, principally concerned with implementing the agreement have been appointed and have got down to work. And Hong Kong has just voted into office its first elected legislative councillors who, on October 30, will take their seats, along with the other councillors, in the new council chamber in the heart of the city in one of Hong Kong's few surviving historic buildings, the old Supreme Court.

While Hong Kong is adjusting and moulding its institutions to adapt to the needs of the future, the economy continues to expand and supply the resources necessary to sustain vital improvements in infrastructure: a second harbour tunnel linking Hong Kong with Kowloon; new tunnels under the hills dividing Kowloon from towns to the north and improved road and rail links reaching into Guangdong and the rest of China. Our harbour has never been visited by so many ships and our container port, already third in the world, is being enlarged.

Last year more than three million visitors from overseas stayed in Hong Kong, but, even more remarkable, the number of travellers between Hong Kong and mainland China rose to about nine million last year, while Hong Kong itself welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from China.

Hong Kong is a great city of the world and its position and stature in the Pacific region of Asia, surrounded by about a third of the world's population, gives it a unique importance.

The people of Hong Kong realize this, are proud of what they have created and are determined to do whatever is necessary to strengthen its institutions and its economy to meet the needs of tomorrow. The people of Hong Kong "are taking up the challenge".

David Akers-Jones



Sir David Akers-Jones is the Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong Government. His civil service career in the Far East spans 32 years, the last 28 of them in Hong Kong

name of more than a hundred leading citizens, many of them young. The advertisement took the form of a declaration, under the heading "We are taking up the challenge". It included the words, "Hong Kong is now facing imminent change. Will

who boldly signed must feel a growing sense that their confidence was well founded. Little more than a year has passed since the Joint Declaration on the future was greeted by queues of thousands of excited and anxious people waiting to



APRIL 13, 1841
(HONG KONG CEDED TO BRITAIN)

Those who today are worried about the future of Hong Kong can take comfort from the fact that the pessimists have not always been proved right. Shortly after the cession of Hong Kong Island to Britain by China, The Times received the following letter from an anonymous correspondent.

I beg to offer you a few lines upon the newly-ceded island of Hong Kong.

It is one of a group of islands about 35 miles from Macao; it is formed of granite rock, with scarcely a vestige (sic) of vegetation, except a few spots used as garden by the poor fishermen who inhabit it. It has one recommendation - that of beautiful water, from a fall of some extent. It is surrounded by islands and mud-banks in many of the approaches. The bay or sea some call it, the harbour, is by no means large, and is open to the heavy seas thrown in by the south-west winds, when the anchorage is extremely dangerous. The whole island is not more than six or seven miles in length, and about two in breadth (although I perceive the *Globe*, with its usual regard to truth, makes it 14), nor a building of any description, except the hovels I have mentioned.

If our trade in future is to be confined to this miserable island, the loss by accidents to laden boats, during a voyage of 130 or 130 miles from Canton, through a difficult and dangerous navigation, will be very great. A worse situation could not have been selected for trade, and that is the reason why the Chinese have so readily ceded it. It may be considered as a banishment from the more civilized parts of the empire by the Chinese authorities, who have insulted, insulted, tricked, and enquired us.

How the hongts sailed into a sea of wealth

Nineteenth century British general trading firms on the China coast copied the China merchant guilds in carefully choosing prestigious Chinese ideographs to bolster their corporate image in the marketplace and with officialdom.

The guilds were called hongts and their decline, beginning from the time of British 1841-42 armed intervention, largely left the trading firms with that title.

In Hong Kong today the word hong means a big firm that has become a multinational and is no longer just a China trader.

Its local corporate structure is that of a conglomerate and, if it is British in origin and remaining control, is considered influential with the local administration.

Elements in the corporate structure of most of Hong Kong's hongts are publicly-listed on the stock exchanges. Ownership of the hongts is not therefore thought of as entirely foreign. The investing public share the ownership and is represented on most hong boards of directors.

Each hong has a taipan, the personality who is the top board chairman. The term taipan is associated with outstanding entrepreneurial ability, a big house, a Rolls-Royce and a pin-striped blue suit that is well-tailored. He is the man really in control of the hong, though he may be just the man-on-the-spot who answers to London.

The taipans, with the top men in the principal banks, help form the local establishment. Usually at some stage of their careers they are appointed by the governor to advise him on the Executive Council or to sit in the Legislative Council. They serve in charitable organizations and on the boards and advisory committees of the British administration's consultative machinery.

They sit on the 20-man general committee of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. Often their subordinates are on the 20 special purpose committees of the chamber that are mainly concerned with trade promotion. The chamber is usually asked to make its own submission on bills before the Legislative Council affecting the economy.

This definition of the status of the hong in Hong Kong and its taipan is flawed in a number of ways. A hong is not necessarily of foreign origin. The style and title is incorporated in the names of numerous new Chinese firms that look to their corporate image, though they are joint-stock companies and not the traditional Chinese merchant guilds.

A hong can also be a foreign firm with a long association with China. Denmark's East Asiatic Company and West Germany's Jebsens are examples.

Though the services sector of the Hong Kong economy, to which the hongts largely belong, is expanding rapidly the industrial sector is considered the most important engine of export dollar-earning growth. Shanghai Chinese industrialists



Entrepreneurial talent: Mr Y. K. Pao, the world's biggest shipowner, who has moved ashore into property

who fled to Hong Kong not long before and after the 1949 Communist take-over pioneered the manufacturing sector and still dominate it.

The hongts once controlled Hong Kong's main bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Today they may sit on the board but it is alongside the Shanghai industrialists and Shanghai shipping interests that established themselves in Hong Kong after 1949.

When the Shanghai interests moved in

Lord MacLehose is sometimes said to have been the first governor to recognize the importance of the role the Shanghai industrialists played in making Hong Kong East Asia's most spectacular newly industrializing country. He cultivated their friendship, sought their advice and brought more of them into the councils of the administration, not without a certain amount of resentment from the Cantonese.

Control over most hongts has changed in recent years. In some cases they have been taken over by the more aggressive Shanghaians. In others they have been absorbed into other British multinationals. Of the 19th century British ones only Jardines and Swire remain.

Hutchison Whampoa is controlled by Mr Li Ka-shing, who began in Hong Kong as a small plastic flowers manufacturer and got into property. He has established his main vehicle, Cheung Kong, as an important

hong. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation sold Cheung Kong its controlling interest in Hutchison.

In a take-over bid Sir Y. K. Pao, the world's biggest shipowner, wrested control of Kowloon Wharf from Jardines and Hongkong Land. He has gone on recently to acquire control of Wheelock Marden in shipping and property. The world shipping slump has brought his entrepreneurial talents ashore, mainly into property.

Jardines and its affiliate Hongkong Land established interlocking share-holdings after Sir Y. K. Pao succeeded in biting off Kowloon Wharf. Their company reports show they are picking up slowly in profitability following disastrous years in property and shipping. But rumours persist about whether or not the Keswick family will sell their interest in Jardines to one of the Shanghai taipans or Southeast Asian Chinese who have moved into property in Hong Kong with their offshore money.

Jardines came under some criticism when, shortly before the Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong's future, it established a holding company in Bermuda, though this decision was not much different to the control from London exercised by other prominent hongts.

Graham Jenkins

The author is editor at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

What makes Hong Kong the most important communications centre in Asia?

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مكاتبنا في كل مكان



OCTOBER 19, 1963

CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The Times carried a leader on the inauguration of the university, which today offers undergraduate courses spanning 35 disciplines in five faculties.

Hong Kong is at last doing some justice to the culture of the majority of its inhabitants. In the new university inaugurated recently, where teaching will be entirely in Chinese, the noble tradition of Chinese humane studies will have a chance to flourish.

Chinese culture in Hong Kong is a curious mixture, offering a not very agreeable milieu for the Chinese intellectual, especially when he is a poor and discarded expatriate from the Chinese world. For such men the culture of Hong Kong as it gets served up to the foreign tourist is a sorry debasement of what Chinese civilisation can mean. Yet it is all that the hundreds who descend daily from their jet planes can see these days. No one expects the new university to reverse such tendencies towards vulgarity and unreality. But at least Hong Kong needs something at the other end of the scale from the tawdry and the spuriously exotic. That the university can offer, acting as a reminder that there are living strains of Chinese civilisation however the heat of political conviction across the border may seem to consume them.

There is a risk, of course, obvious enough to the promoters. Collect together enough zealous, well-educated Chinese teenagers and the cauldron of political idealism will soon be bubbling. It does not need the flashing beacon from the Maoist light-house in Peking to make the idealism take a communist form. Singapore has been living with the problem for a decade or more... If Hong Kong can avoid such dangers and contrive a centre where eastern and western ideas all have free play, the new university will be a blessing indeed.



The tourist trade is vital to the economy and the gem business is a jewel in Hong Kong's crown

Within a generation the economy has moved away from the sweat-shop philosophy that had women running up jeans by the gross (left) to controlled conditions (right) where modern technology demands microchips with everything

Americans see it as gateway to China



The economies of the newly-industrializing countries, or NICs, on the Pacific Rim are entering a period of slower growth. This applies as much to Hong Kong as to its near neighbours, South Korea and Taiwan. In all cases the economic downturn in the United States, with a slackening demand for imports, is a crucial factor.

Hong Kong could be worst affected, given the relatively small size of its domestic economy and its ability to

generate export-replacing demand because exports and re-exports are many times the size of domestically-generated economic product.

Hong Kong had enjoyed three years of export-led growth until this year, largely on the back of American demand, though European markets also helped and the China trade rocketed. The picture changed dramatically in the first half of 1985 when domestic exports fell 4 per cent in HK dollar terms, to HK\$60.4 billion (about £6bn), and more in real terms, compared with a 17 per cent rise in the first half of 1984.

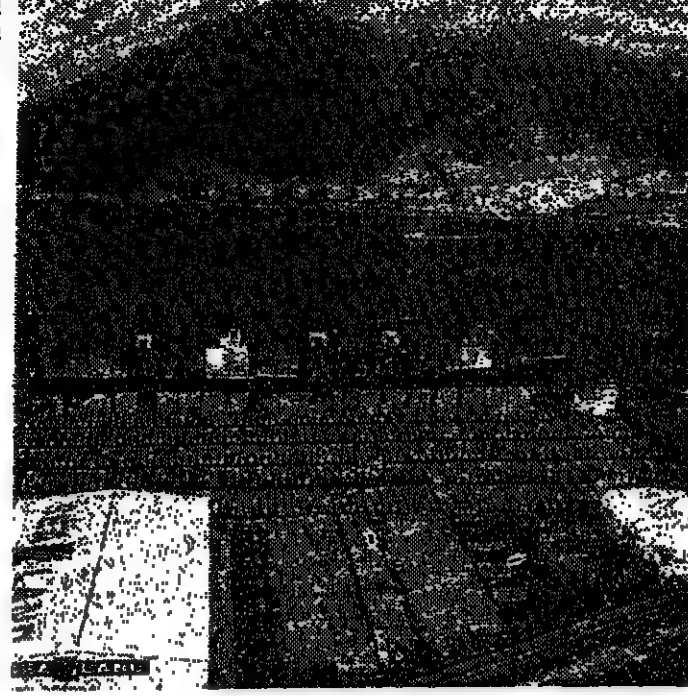
Sales to the US fell by 6 per cent, those to West Germany by 11 per cent and to Britain by nearly 20 per cent.

At least part of the problem appeared to arise from the strength of the HK dollar relative to the Deutschmark and the pound - a natural result of the Hong Kong unit being linked to the US dollar at a virtually fixed rate of 7.8:1 since October 1983 - with the US dollar pulling the Hong Kong currency up with it.

It is scant consolation that the US dollar has since weakened because European economies in general are unlikely to be strong enough throughout the rest of this year to compensate for slackening import demand in the US.

However, the case for maintaining the currency link remains strong. It has brought great stability to the Hong Kong economy - albeit at the expense of interest-rate volatility - and has helped keep Hong Kong's inflation rate down to something below 3 per cent for the year to the end of August. (The rate for the whole of 1985 is expected to be about 4 per cent.) And, so long as the US remains the biggest single market for Hong Kong's domestic exports, there are some advantages in having a predictable exchange rate against the dollar.

Some improvement is expected in domestic exports during the rest of 1985, though their overall growth for the year is unlikely to exceed one per



Once harbour was a sea of junks. Now it proudly points to developments like the Kwai Chung container terminal

overall economic performance in 1985 is likely to be to lower the earlier predicted growth of 7 per cent in GDP to 4.5 per cent. Domestic private demand, except in the property market where low interest rates have boosted demand, is weak, as evidenced also by slack loan demand on the banks and high liquidity. The government is anxious to contain its budget deficit, for which it had to issue HK\$1 billion of deficit bonds in 1984, and so is unlikely to do any pump priming.

Hong Kong's budget deficit is, however, relatively modest in terms of the proportion of gross domestic product it represents, and the strong trade and service-sector surpluses which the territory is likely to enjoy in 1985 offer some scope for a rise in private-sector consumption and investment.

If South Korea and Taiwan manage to outperform Hong Kong economically in 1985, at least its prospects look good against the probability of nil growth in the fourth Asian NIC - Singapore.

Hong Kong's performance, according to Sir John Bremridge, has to be viewed dispassionately. "Then you see growth at a reasonable rate, inflation very low and a substantial trade surplus."

Hong Kong in fact achieved a highly unusual trade surplus - of HK\$5.5 billion - in the first half of this year. This reflected a slowdown in imports (not in itself a favourable omen because it in turn reflected a slowdown in manufacturing orders), low growth in domestic demand and a marked improvement in Hong Kong's terms of trade owing to weak commodity prices and the strength of the local currency.

Buoyant service earnings from tourism and shipping related to the entrepot trade were also factors.

It is hard to see how the government could stimulate domestic demand, even if it wanted to, to offset a continuing fall in trade with the West and China. The Mass Transit Railway project is substantially complete and though there is talk of a second cross-harbour tunnel the earlier plan for a second Hong Kong airport appears to have been shelved.

Not that any of this appeared to worry unduly the local stockmarket until recently. The Hang Seng Index advanced steadily from the beginning of

the year to breach the 1,700 mark at one point - close to its record level in the 1973 boom. Steeply falling local interest rates (helped by high liquidity and official pressure to undermine speculators betting on a HK dollar revaluation) pushed the market along, as did a much improved outlook for the interest rate-sensitive property market.

Then, early last month, interest rates began rising again as the upward pressure came off the local currency. Local banks, led by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, published unexciting profit figures (no doubt reflecting in part the further repairs to inner reserves damaged by the great property shakeout of recent years) and the market seemed to decide that the fun was over for the time being.

Unemployment is at an enviable level

Whereas it had been able to shake off the collapse of the local Overseas Trust Bank, which, like the Hang Lung Bank, two years earlier, had to be taken over by the government, the market did not seem able to stomach disappointing financial sector results and the prospect of higher interest rates afflicting property companies. Both finance and property are important sectors of the Hang Seng Index - as is the export sector, especially textiles.

Opinion among analysts is divided on where the stockmarket goes from here. Some argue that outside investors, in New York and elsewhere, are only just beginning to realize the potential of Hong Kong and of Hong Kong-listed companies as a gateway to China. That, say the most bullish, could hoist the index to 4,000 eventually. Bears argue that both Hong Kong and China are in for a period of stagnant growth, and that the same holds for the stockmarket.

For the moment, though, the "real" economy continues to look resilient enough. Wage rates are rising steadily - by around 4 per cent at present - and unemployment remains at internationally enviable levels. The crucial question is over the development of protectionism in the US.

Anthony Rowley
Business Editor
Far Eastern Economic Review

Peking takes fright over imports

cent or so - a far cry from the 11 per cent predicted earlier by Sir John Bremridge, the Financial Secretary. China is the unknown quantity. Hong Kong's domestic exports to China shot up by 75 per cent in the first half of this year, making it the territory's second largest export market. But this picture, too, is likely to change dramatically in the second half.

Peking has recently taken fright at the volume of imports both consumer and capital goods - which have flooded into the country with the relaxation of controls on state enterprises. The influx has clogged the ports and drained the country's foreign exchange reserves and, as a result, licensing of foreign exchange transactions has been tightened considerably.

This is bound to have a sharply adverse effect on Hong Kong's own exports to China and on the goods which Hong Kong imports from the country, which it then re-exports to China - the entrepot trade. Re-exports grew by 41 per cent in the first half of 1985 and now represent some 45 per cent of Hong Kong's total exports. Some slowdown was apparent by June and, in any case, Hong Kong is anxious to avoid over-dependence on China rather than becoming vulnerable to economic (and political) influences from Peking.

The impact on Hong Kong's

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PERCENTAGE GROWTH RATES IN REAL TERMS OF COMPONENTS OF EXPENDITURE ON THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

	1981	1982	1983*	1984**	1985 Budget forecast	1985 Revised forecast
Private consumption expenditure	7.8	5.6	8.1	6.1	7	8
Government consumption expenditure	20.8	5.5	5.4	2.5	5	4
Gross domestic fixed capital formation	8.9	1.6	8.5	1.1	5	3
Transfer costs of land and buildings	41.3	-3.3	-5	-	-	20
Building and construction	7.6	14.2	-0.2	-7.2	-5	-
Private	8.1	15.6	-2.9	-5.7	-	-
Public	4.8	32.2	3.6	-8.3	-	-
Government	21.2	18.2	1.7	-3.8	-	-15
Mass Transit Railway Corp	-44.2	125.9	11.5	-26.4	-51	-50
Real estate developers' margin	8.9	3.8	-23.9	-5.3	-	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	8.1	-14.3	-4.2	20.4	13	6
Private	6.2	-15.1	-4.4	23.8	16	7
Public	11.8	-1.8	-1.5	-	-	-
Total exports of goods	14.3	-2.7	14.6	-38.7	-13	-15
Re-exports	8.1	-2.5	14.3	17.3	11	1
Domestic exports	28.4	-3.0	15.3	30.5	30	28
Imports of goods	12.1	-2.2	8.9	14.7	18	11
Exports of services	11.8	3.8	9.7	11.6	15	10
Imports of services	17.5	1.3	16.4	13.2	15	11
Gross domestic product (gdp)	8.6	2.9	6.5	9.4	7	5
Per capita gdp	7.0	1.4	4.9	8.3	6	4
Total final demand	11.0	0.6	8.4	11.8	12	8
Total final demand excluding re-exports	8.8	1.2	7.4	8.9	8	4
Retained imports	6.1	-1.8	7.1	7.1	10	4
Domestic demand	8.7	2.5	3.9	4.3	6	4
Private	7.8	0.9	3.9	5.5	7	5
Public	15.9	14.9	4.3	-3.4	-1	-4

* Based on revised provisional estimates ** Based on revised preliminary estimates *** The unrounded growth rate is 4.5
Source: Hong Kong Government

FOCUS

HONG KONG/5

How bulls and bears see the future

Hong Kong's future as an international financial centre - it is now third in importance, after New York and London - depends on more than last year's Chinese-British agreement supposedly guaranteeing a capitalist lifestyle for 50 years after 1997. There is also the prospective emergence of Tokyo as a more important financial centre, as a result of fiscal liberalization.

Australia too has liberalized its banking sector, inviting 16 foreign banks to apply for licences, and there is talk of Sydney becoming a more important focus of onshore and offshore financial activity.

Finally, there is Singapore's position as a financial centre. The China dimension looms largest for the moment, however. There are two views on how the 1997 agreement will affect Hong Kong: bullish and bearish. The first sees the territory as the most important and developed city within China even after 1997, and therefore continuing to attract capital and technology on

dirigiste attitudes than Hong Kong on such matters as interest and exchange rates and capital flows. Even if it cannot do, Peking can operate through a system of nods and winks. So far Hong Kong has proved quick to take the hint.

There is little, if any, evidence so far of financial-centre business deserting Hong Kong, which comes after only New York and London in terms of the aggregate size of transactions in banking, stock exchange turnover, fund management and gold dealing, etc. Where it has left the territory, the reasons have to do with things other than the China factor. For instance, some of the business of advising investments in the Japanese stock-

invested in the stockmarkets of the region, mainly Japan but also in Hong Kong itself, Singapore/Malaysia, Sydney and, more recently, Seoul and Taipei.

It will do so because, at 18 per cent, corporate tax is the lowest in the region, regulations are minimal, especially where offshore trusts are concerned, and the size of the international investment community in Hong Kong provides securities dealers from London, New York or wherever with a home-away-from-home environment. But this is not to say that things cannot or will not change.

For one thing, the size of capital outflows from Japan in recent years - portfolio investments in overseas markets by individuals and institutions -

at. According to the bulls, the Hong Kong stockmarket's total capitalization could double over the next decade as a result of Hong Kong companies being seen by the international investment community as "a way into China."

But financial centres are not involved only with fund management. Another major plank of Hong Kong's financial activity is banking, with just about every major bank in the world represented among its 140 or so licensed banks or its 300 odd deposit-taking companies. Hong Kong has traditionally been the primary syndication centre for Eurodollar loans to the Asian region; Singapore has acted as the principal funding centre for such business.

Syndicated lending has declined sharply in recent times, even to the Asia region, as a result of the (mainly Latin America-centred) debt crisis. At the same time, the prospect of the Japanese yen becoming an important currency for so-called Eurocurrency transactions cannot be ignored. The Japanese Ministry of Finance has begun allowing both Japanese and foreign banks more free-

Syndicated lending had declined

dom in European borrowing and lending activity.

It is by no means inconceivable that US and European banks could opt at some time to make Tokyo, rather than Hong Kong or Singapore, their primary focus of Asian activities, if the yen becomes a more important Eurocurrency (as well as international transaction and reserve currency), and if Tokyo opts to give banks the tax and other concessions they need to lure them to establish their Asian regional operations there.

However, there is one sector of Hong Kong banking business which seems unlikely to desert the territory. This is the handling by Hong Kong banks of what are known rather euphemistically as "financial working balances". In reality, they are very large, though not easily quantifiable, sums of money deposited in Hong Kong (usually in the form of US dollars) by overseas Chinese and other businessmen around the region who like to keep their financial transactions away from the prying eyes of the taxman and others in their own country.

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China is developing a capital market

behalf of the motherland. The bears see Hong Kong being snared by a socialist bureaucracy and losing its attraction as a low-tax and relatively regulation-free financial centre.

It is impossible to judge which scenario is correct. There has been no evidence yet of any attempt by Peking to interfere with Hong Kong's financial freedoms. China seems happy to see the Hong Kong currency financing the bulk of transactions within special export zones such as Shenzhen across the border from Hong Kong.

China too is slowly but surely developing its own capital market, issuing bonds and even equity shares, and thus moving closer to Hong Kong rather than vice-versa. The Peking-based China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) recently made its first Hong Kong-dollar bond issue.

Nevertheless, these are fears that, as 1997 draws closer, Peking might want to see Hong Kong devote more of its financing expertise to helping the modernization of China rather than neutrally seeking business wherever it can, as has traditionally been the case. China obviously has more

Hong Kong's goldfinger: Mr Woo Hon-fai, president of the gold and silver exchange and chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange

market has moved to Tokyo, along with the broking function for Japanese stocks, although the basic management of funds for investment remains in Hong Kong.

This is because of the sheer size of the Tokyo market and the fact that Japan has liberalized conditions somewhat for securities operations.

For the foreseeable future, Hong Kong looks like remaining the principal fund management centre for Asia, that is, the centre from where huge volumes of portfolio investment funds from Europe, the US and Australia are managed - and

have increased so rapidly that advising Japanese investors on their overseas investment looks like becoming a major industry in future. Couple this with the fact that the bulk of funds managed out of Hong Kong find their way to Japan anyway and the logic of investment advisers moving their operations from Hong Kong to Tokyo becomes more compelling.

Yet it should not be forgotten that Hong Kong itself is now generating substantial sums of pension-fund money which, if not big enough to compare with Japan's, are not to be sneezed

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Setting a new track record in sport...



Hong Kong's defeat of China in a World Cup football qualifying match in Peking last May was overshadowed by the riots which followed. But it was an interesting reminder of the territory's growing stature in international sport - an achievement which has gone hand-in-hand with greater public enthusiasm.

In the Davis Cup Hong Kong easily beat Singapore and then lost narrowly to China. The women's squash team won the East Asian championships and Lo Chuen Tsung came third in the men's event at the 1985 world table tennis championships in Sweden. George Souza won the Gateway Masters singles bowls tournament at Worthing last year, and swimmer Tsang Yi Ming has reached world rankings in the butterfly event.

Hong Kong's more professional approach to sport is best seen at the Jubilee Sports Centre, which opened four years ago at Sha Tin in the New Territories for the training of top athletes. The centre provides coaching in fencing, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, soccer, squash, badminton, table tennis and judo.

Mr Howard Wells, the manager, would like to add bowls to this list and is also considering running courses in sports administration. He has 23 people involved in coaching and their services have already been requested by China.

The centre was built by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for HK\$150m (£15m) on land given by the government. The club also meets the running costs of about HK\$21m a year.

The money for sending Hong Kong athletes to compete overseas comes from the Council for Recreation and Sport, which is chaired by a government official, the Secretary for

Municipal Services. Nearly 60 per cent of the council's HK\$6m budget goes on international competitions and the remainder is divided between sports development and coaching, and administration.

Mr P. J. Williamson, the acting secretary for municipal services, thinks that more funds should be allocated to sports administration, which has so far relied on devoted amateurs. He would like to see 45 per cent of the budget used for training national teams and sending them abroad, 30 per cent on sports development and 25 per cent on administration.

The Urban Council, the municipal authority for Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, devotes HK\$9m a year to sports promotion, from organizing table tennis for children to bringing foreign teams to Hong Kong. The council runs the Coliseum, an indoor stadium in the form of an inverted pyramid above Kowloon Station, and the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Wanchai on Hong Kong Island.

Squash has taken off in a big way

The Coliseum, which was opened in 1981 and can seat 12,800, has staged basketball, volleyball and tennis. Sporting events are held as well in the 3,500-seat hall of the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, which also has badminton and squash courts and table tennis facilities.

The government has recommended that primary and secondary schools have at least two lessons of sport a week but this is difficult to achieve because of lack of facilities and academic pressure on children.

Nevertheless, greater affluence, more leisure and a concern for fitness have brought a marked increase in sport in Hong Kong, as the new athletic tracks, swimming-pools and squash and tennis courts testify.



Saturday afternoon at the races: Trainers and jockeys at Sha Tin racecourse

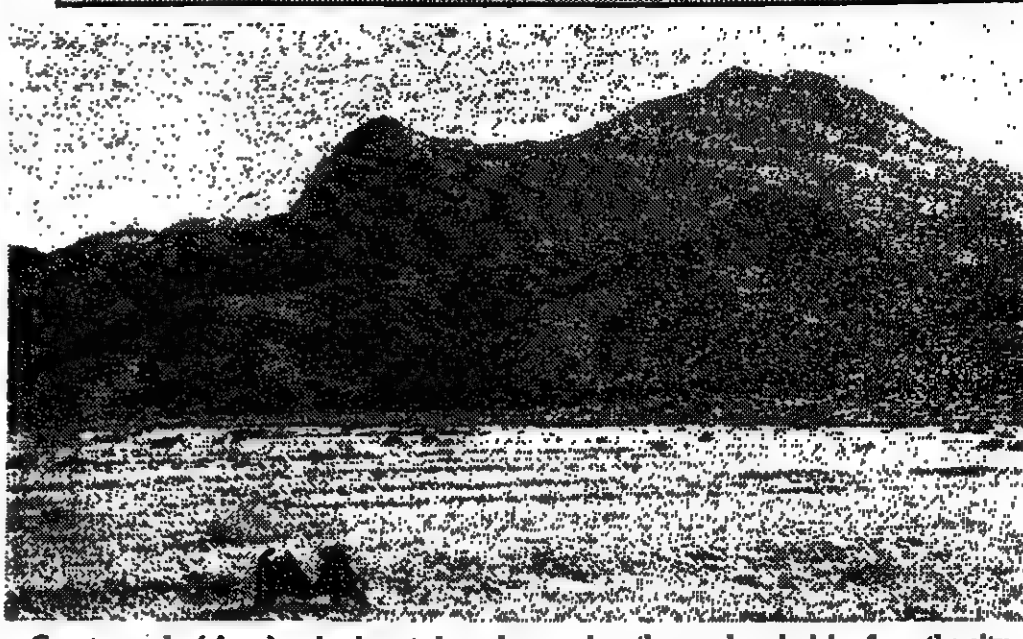
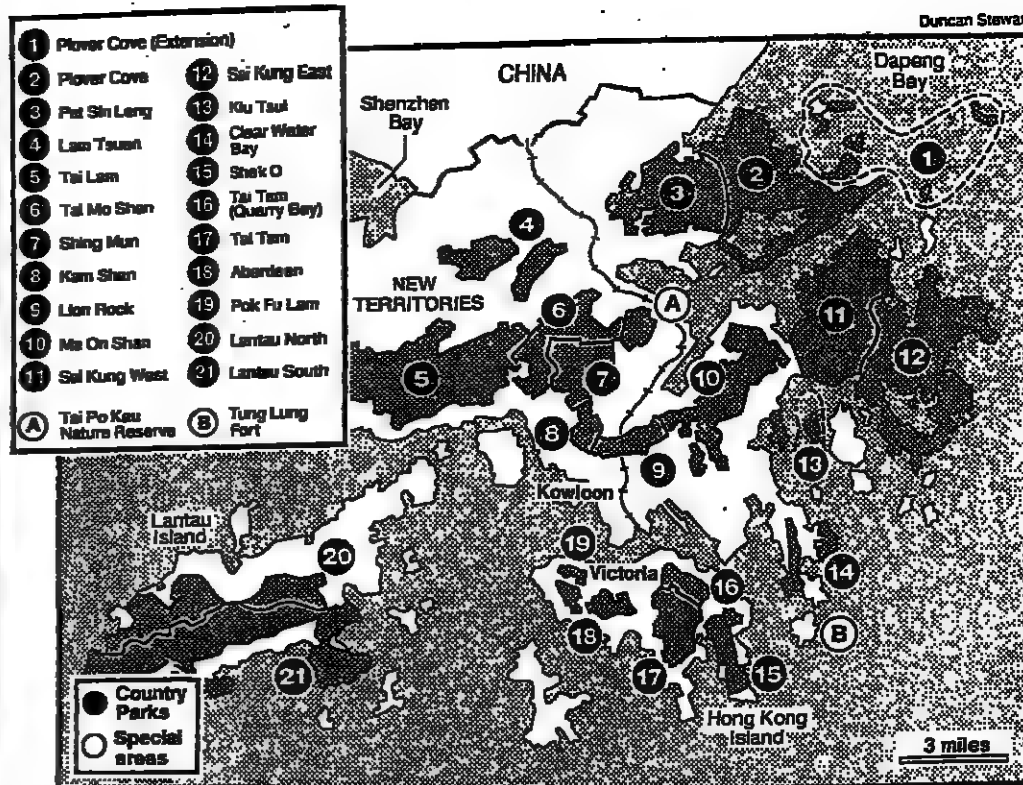
Squash, which is suited to urban societies where space is at a premium, has taken off in a big way. It is estimated that there are about 250 courts in Hong Kong, compared with less than 80 in 1979, and that the figure

will be 600 by the end of the decade. Of the spectator sports, racing remains supreme.

The Jockey Club, which controls all aspects of racing, had an after-tax surplus

of HK\$891m in the year ended June 30, 1985 on a turnover of just over HK\$20 bn. More than 98 per cent of that turnover came from betting.

Simon Scott Plummer



Country parks (above) and a deserted rural scene, less than an hour's drive from the city

... and getting away from it on the nature trails



Deserted mountain slopes falling towards a deeply indented coast: grassy heights swathed in cloud like the moors of Scotland; cattle, shrikes and mynah birds, swallowtail and tiger butterflies, bamboo orchids and rose myrtle. None of these is normally associated with Hong Kong.

And yet all can be found on the Sai Kung Peninsula less than an hour's drive from the swarming streets and neon-lit Chinese signs of Kowloon. The peninsula, the eastern extremity of the territory, has been designated a country park, covering about 40 per cent of its area. They embrace large tracts of the New Territories, the heights of Hong Kong Island and most of Lantau (see map).

Twenty years ago two American conservationists, Lee and Martha Talbot, looked into the possibility of setting up country parks in Hong Kong and their recommendations formed the blueprint for subsequent developments. In 1976, when Sir Murray (now Lord) MacLehose was governor, an ordinance was enacted to establish a Country Parks Authority - the responsibility of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries - and a Country Parks Board, a consultative body made up of officials and members of the public who use the parks. By 1979, 21 parks covering more than 100,000 acres (nearly 160 square miles) had been designated.

Today the parks have a staff of about 1,000 involved in administration, maintaining paths, preventing fire, collecting litter, planting trees and organizing educational activities. Annual maintenance costs are about HK\$3m (£300,000). The main capital expenditure (HK\$105m over the past 10 years) has been the building of 26 centres from which the parks are managed.

About 200 people work under Mr Cheng Yuk On, the senior field officer, in the two parks on the Sai Kung Peninsula. At the entrance, where you leave your car, is an excellent visitor's centre, containing information on the fauna and flora of the area, the Hakka people who live there and the building of the huge reservoir which lies within it. There is also a room for showing films, a bookstall and, in the yard behind, a selection of plants found in the peninsula.

That country parks account for two fifths of Hong Kong's area is impressive. However, the size and density of the territory's population make them very vulnerable.

The number of visitors has risen from 1.86m in 1977/78 to more than 9.27m in 1984/85. Last year Plover Cove and Pat Shek Leng in the north-east were the most frequented (2.3m), followed by Lantau (2.2m) and the Sai Kung Peninsula (1.8m). Such heavy use means, first, that renovation work has to be carried out on picnic sites and children's playgrounds; also that vegetation is worn away,

The Country Parks Authority has laid out three long distance paths in Hong Kong:

● MacLehose Trail: 62½ miles. Runs across the New Territories from the Sai Kung Peninsula in the east to Tsuen Mun in the west. Crosses eight country parks.

● Lantau Trail: 43½ miles. Across Lantau Island from Mui Wo in the east to Tai O in the west and back by a different route.

● Hong Kong Trail: 31½ miles. Across Hong Kong Island from the Peak in the west to Tai Long Wan in the east. Crosses five country parks.

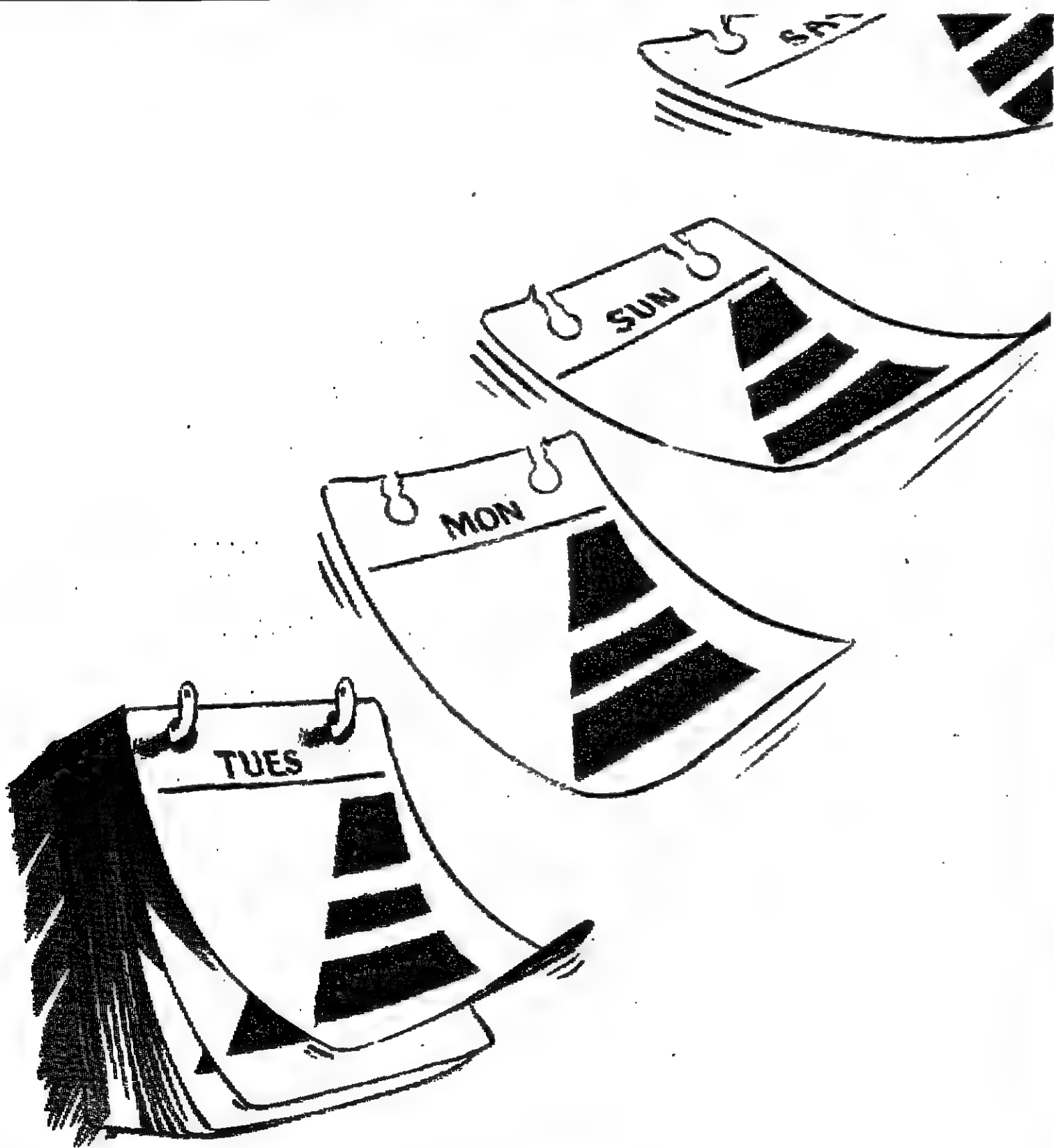
exposing hillsides to erosion. Secondly, visitors leave huge amounts of litter. Nearly 4,000 tonnes were collected in 1984/85, mostly from the bins provided in the parks.

Thirdly, there is a risk of fire. The most popular season for visiting the parks is between October and February, when it is dry and windy. According to S.P. Lau, senior country parks officer, there are between 300 and 300 outbreaks in a good season and up to 1,000 in a bad.

Educational programmes are an important means of preserving the fragile asset which Hong

Kong has in its parks. A hundred forestry work camps for young people were organized in July and August this year. In the morning they worked - clearing fire breaks, collecting litter, etc - while the afternoon and evening were allocated for recreational and educational activities. Under a second scheme, a school adopts a small area of woodland, which it manages for at least five years, and, under a third, pupils selected from over 20 secondary schools attend a five-day course on conservation each July.

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Imperial banquets for the tourists to savour

Perhaps it was the focus of world attention on Hong Kong as Britain and China negotiated its future that drew more people to the territory last year. What ever the reason, the number of visitors was up by 13.6 per cent to 3,151,672 and spending by 23.4 per cent to just over HK\$14 bn (£1.4 bn).

Growth in 1985 is expected to be more modest. Mr John Pain, executive director of the Hong Kong Tourist Association, forecasts a rise of 11 per cent in numbers and between eight and nine per cent in revenue. This is partly due to a big fall in earnings from Australians, the highest per capita spenders last year, after their currency devaluation.

With occupancy rates of nearly 90 per cent, hotels in Hong Kong are good business. Mr David November, marketing director of Mandarin Oriental, which has six hotels in South-East Asia and one in Vancouver, says that the territory is the strongest market for the group and that the Mandarin on Hong Kong Island is its most profitable venture.

It is not surprising that a substantial hotel building programme is under way. The tourist association estimates that the number of rooms in Hong Kong will rise by more than 7,000 over the next four years. Already under construction are a 743-room hotel in Kowloon and one with 830 rooms at Sha Tin in the New Territories.

A HK\$1.5 bn exhibition and conference centre is due to open in Wanchai on Hong Kong Island in 1988-89. It will contain 18,000 square metres of exhibition space on two floors, two auditoria seating 300 and 700, a conference hall for more than 3,000 and two hotels with 600 and 900 rooms.

This development ties in with the tourist association's drive to attract conference and incentive business to Hong Kong. Last year the territory hosted 462 conferences and exhibitions, which were attended by nearly 70,000 foreign delegates. Two hundred further events, which are expected to draw 150,000 visitors from overseas, have been booked over the next five years.

Incentive groups in 1984 numbered 235 (more than 25,000 people), with the United States providing nearly 60 per cent of the total. Mr Pain boasts that Hong Kong can lay on anything for this kind of visitor, from Imperial Chinese banquets to rickshaw races and mock pirate attacks.

Though the tourist industry has come through the period of political uncertainty surrounding the Sino-British talks unscathed, and even strengthened, there are several clouds on the horizon.

The biggest is congestion at Kai Tak airport, which last year handled more than 9.5 million passengers and 436,000 tonnes of freight on only one runway. Plans for an airport on Lantau Island have been shelved and the Chinese have not decided about building one just across the border in Guangdong province.

is as a gateway to China. Flights between the two are operated almost exclusively by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) - 59 a week compared with five for Cathay Pacific and British Airways. Talks aimed at redressing the balance were held in Peking last month but came to nothing and are expected to continue next month. Mr David Bell of Cathay, which is Hong Kong-based and British-owned, said the airline would like, for a start, to turn its weekly charter to Peking into a scheduled service.

Despite these limitations on its China operations, Cathay recorded a 15.3 per cent rise in business last year. The fastest-growing sector is Western Europe, where the airline has non-stop flights once a week to and from London and Frankfurt and plans to add a similar service to Rome, with an onward leg to Paris, next April.

As Hong Kong and China draw closer, the influx of Chinese visitors to the territory increases. Though they do not appear in the tourist association's statistics, being considered "domestic" traffic, they numbered about 230,000 in 1984. Mr Pain feels they could damage the upper, international end of the market, which he is pushing with conference, incentive travel and special tour promotions. Of the 10,000 rooms submitted for approval to the association during the past six months, more than 2,000 are aimed at the lower end of the market, which would cater for the Chinese. They tend to be buildings converted into 50-100 rooms and without a restaurant.

Finally, though Hong Kong remains popular for shopping, there is the recurrent problem of cheating, this time by sellers of video equipment and cameras. Mr Piers Jacob, Secretary for Economic Services, says there are plans to amend the defamatory ordinance to allow the media to name those reported to the Consumer Council. He has also asked the Attorney General to speed up the hearing of complaints by the Small Claims Tribunal. However, he thinks that prosecution, which can lead to a maximum sentence of a HK\$500,000 and two years in jail, is probably the most effective way of deterring shopkeepers from ripping off tourists.

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Typical tourists: Japanese pose on Hong Kong Island, top. The Kowloon ferry and a rickshaw, centre, are familiar sights. Left: Aberdeen harbour. Right: A Song Dynasty teapot, above, and an 18th century Yixing teapot, below, both at the recently opened Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware

Old army HQ gives teapots a new home

One of a handful of old buildings to have survived development in the Central district of Hong Kong Island is Flagstaff House, formerly the office and residence of the Commander of British Forces. Built between 1844 and 1846, shortly after China had ceded Hong Kong to Britain, this classical, two-storey building has found a new lease of life as a museum of tea ware.

Most of the exhibits have been donated by Dr Lo Kwec Seong, a Hong Kong businessman who began collecting Yixing teapots in the early 1950s. Yixing is in Jiangsu province on the Yangtze basin and its potters are famous for their colour clay wares, of which the purple clay type or zisha are the most popular.

The area is also noted for its tea. At the time of the 8th century Tang Emperor Su it produced one of the very few kinds of "tributary" tea presented to the court for Imperial consumption.

In a foreword to the catalogue of the Flagstaff House collection, Dr Lo recalls walking along Queen's Road in Central in the early 1950s and noticing a

Yixing ware is outstanding feature

large number of second-hand teapots on display. "I was so carried away that I bought over 30 of them on impulse", he writes.

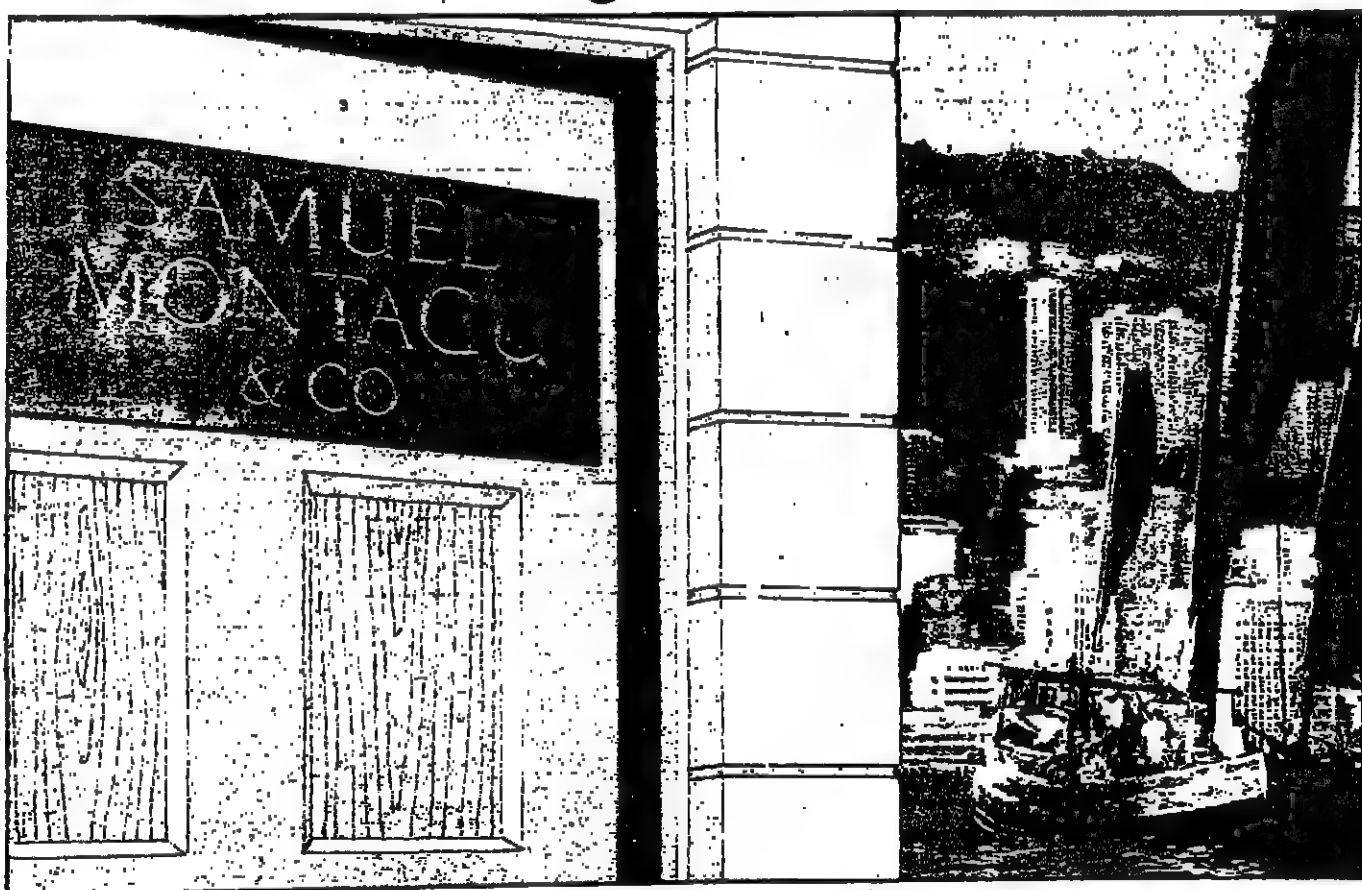
Some of his prize finds in the early days were copies of Yixing teapots made in Europe in the late 17th and early 18th century.

After two decades Dr Lo had more than 200 teapots, mainly Qing dynasty but with one of two Ming pieces. In 1978 a major collection of Yixing wares was auctioned in Hong Kong and he snapped up nearly all of them. He then broadened his scope, first to include all teapots made in China and, secondly, any vessel with a spout and handle.

Pieces in the museum date from the Six Dynasties (265-587 AD) to the 20th century and the outstanding feature of the collection is the Yixing ware. The museum is open every day except Wednesday from 10 am to 5 pm. Entry is free.

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